सत्यमेव जयते

Monday
10th May, 1954

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Part I- Questions and Answers)

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Dated 01.12.2014

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 10th May, 1954

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

WAR INJURIES COMPENSATION

*2326. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 1692 asked on the 11th July, 1952 regarding War Injuries Compensation Insurance Fund and state:

(a) whether the two schemes, one for imparting training to selected skilled workmen and the other for ameliorating the lot of workers, are being implemented;

(b) if so, what progress has been made so far in this direction; and

(c) the amount of funds for each of them that have been constituted for the purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) Applications for training under the Scheme for the award of scholarships to skilled workmen for further training were called for, and five candidates have so far been selected. In regard to the Scheme for provision of welfare facilities for industrial workers, a sum of Rs. 33,698/- was sanctioned during 1953-54 and a sum of Rs. 62,500/- has been sanctioned so far in the current financial year.

(c) Rs. 1,68,755-8-0 for the first Scheme and Rs. 2,00,000/- for the second Scheme.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the total amount that has so far been spent over these two schemes?

Shri Abid Ali: So far as the welfare section of the scheme is concerned, sanction has already been accorded to the payment of a grant of Rs. 96,198 to the various States.

Shri S. N. Das: May I take it that so far there has been no expenditure?

Shri Abid Ali: The amount has to be spent by the respective State Governments.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know what are the reasons for the slow progress made in these two schemes?

Shri Abid Ali: This scheme is to be implemented with the co-operation of the State Governments and also of the employers.

ANTIBIOTICS

*2327. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article in the 'Bombay Chronicle', dated the 7th December, 1953 stating that the indiscriminate use of antibiotics like streptomycin and isoniazid for the treatment of T.B. proves harmful to the patients concerned; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or are going to take to prevent the indiscriminate use of these drugs?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The control over the distribution and sale of isoniazid is being exercised under the Drugs (Control) Act, 1950 in Part 'C' States and under the State Drugs Control Acts in other States. This drug is allowed to be sold only on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

Government are also considering the question of bringing streptomycin and certain other antibiotics within the scope of the Drugs Rules, 1945, so that these drugs can be sold only on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether any instances have come to the notice of the Government regarding the harmful effects of any of these antibiotics either as a result of some indiscriminate use or owing to the peculiar physical condition of the patients?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Harmful effects of antibiotics on T.B. patients have not been brought to Government's notice as such. They are fully cognizant of the effects of these drugs. Though no official instructions have been issued, still, the Director-General of Health Services and the T.B. Adviser, at conferences and other meetings, instruct or advise the medical practitioners about the discriminate use of antibiotics and other things.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether doctors have to take any specific precautions before prescribing this medicine?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes, Sir. As I said before they have been impressed well to use them judiciously, in suitable combination with each other and also in conjunction with such other recognised methods of treatment.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether Government have collected any statistics regarding the harmful effects or otherwise of this medicine?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: If a separate question is put, I may be able to provide statistics.

POSTAL LIFE INSURANCE

***2329. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of persons who were policy-holders in December, 1953 under the Postal Life Insurance?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The number of policy-holders (including policies which are the liability of Pakistan) as on 31st December, 1953 is 1,10,341.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know what methods are adopted to make the postal life insurance more popular?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As the House is aware, postal life insurance facilities are open at the moment to government employees and employees of quasi-government institutions. As such, we are publicising the entire literature to all the Government and quasi-government bodies and we are getting a fairly good business.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Government consider the desirability of throwing it open to the general public?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Serious considerations are involved on the decision on this point. We have got to take into consideration the rights and interests of the various insurance companies also. Also we have got to bear in mind the organisational and other problems that will arise therefrom.

TATA ENGINEERING AND LOCOMOTIVE COMPANY

***2330. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the progress that has been made by Government towards taking over from TELCO the manufacture of boilers and locomotives and running it as a State-owned Industry?

(b) Is it a fact that TELCE has not been able to conform to the stipulations of the Agreement entered into between itself and Government and that Government have been making *ad hoc* advances to it despite this fact?

(c) What immediate steps have been taken to regularise the transaction and enforce strict adherence to the terms of the Agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) and (c). It is true that TELCO's have fallen behind the production schedule envisaged in the Agreement, but no *ad hoc* advances have been made to them. Provisional payments against bills submitted by them for work done have been made from time to time under the terms of the Agreement. A settlement has now been reached on all important outstanding issues and it is expected to finalise the provisional payments shortly.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I invite your attention to pages 11 and 12, para. 17 and the observations of the P.A.C. where it has been said that a sum of Rs. 47 lakhs was paid, which was not based even on an approximate check of bills: Rs. 20 lakhs paid in January 1951, Rs. 16 lakhs in July 1951 and Rs. 11 lakhs in March 1952. May I know whether these are *ad hoc* payments or not according to the findings of the P.A.C.?

Shri Alagesan: As I said, the question of finalising provisional payments was pending the arrangement regarding distribution of several overheads such as machine overheads, stores overheads and departmental overheads. A formula has been evolved and it has been sent to the TELCO for acceptance. As soon as that is done, these provisional payments will be finalised. That is the position.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: The hon. Minister stated that no *ad hoc* payments had been made. What are these payments? I wanted to know whether these are *ad hoc* advances or against bills or against no bills?

Shri Alagesan: They are provisional payments.

Mr. Speaker: Towards bills?

Shri Alagesan: Yes.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the fact that there have been differences over many terms of the agreement, may I know whether any fresh agreement is going to be entered into between the Government and TELCO?

Shri Alagesan: There is no such proposal.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the total amount of grants which have been agreed to by the Government, according to the agreement entered into with TELCO, to be given to them?

Shri Alagesan: We do not make any grants, except participation in capital.

Mr. Speaker: I think the accounts will have to be finalised.

Shri Alagesan: Yes.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I want to know the total amount which is to be given to TELCO. That grant was provisional.

Mr. Speaker: I am talking of that. How can it be arrived at unless the accounts are settled?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The agreement has been entered into by the Government.

Shri Alagesan: If the hon. Member wants to know the total payments so far. I should like to have notice. I can give that figure.

TUBE-WELLS

***2331. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any general directions to the State Governments with regard to the location of tube-wells; and

(b) if so, what are they?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). No directions have been given to any State Government in respect of tube-well location. The selection of sites for tube-well location is the responsibility of the State Governments undertaking the tube-well construction programme, but they are guided in the selection of areas by the recommendations of the Technical Working Party consisting of officers of the Government of India and the Technical Co-operation Administration. The main criteria kept in view while selecting sites are (i) existence of satisfactory under-ground water conditions, (ii) availability of electric power at economic rates, and (iii) productivity of soil to be irrigated.

श्री विभुति मिश्र : यदि कोई ऐसी जगह पायी जाय जैसी कि मंत्री जी ने कही है तो क्या सरकार प्रांतीय सरकार को निर्देश दे सकती है कि वहां पर एक ट्यूब वेल लगाया जाय ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : जब प्रांतीय सरकार तै करती है तो इन कन्सीडरेशन्स को सामने रखती है, मगर यह सही नहीं है कि हर जगह वह कर सके । जितने भी ट्यूब वैल्स बन सकते हैं उनके लिए ऐसी जगह चाहिए ।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार...

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question. This question has been answered more than three or four times in this House.

EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRES

***2332. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) how many Pilot Development Projects, Extension Wings and Extension Training Centres have been opened up-to-date with the Ford Foundation gift in West Bengal; and

(b) the amount spent so far on them?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The Ford Foundation is contributing a part of expenditure on the following projects in West Bengal:

(i) One Pilot Development Project at Burdwan.

(ii) One Extension Wing to the State Agricultural College, Tollygunge.

(iii) Three Extension Training Centres, one at Burdwan and two at Fulia.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on these projects up to 31-3-54 is about Rs. 9,26,000.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how many workers have so far been trained in these training centres?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as the extension wing is concerned, 74 students are receiving training at present. So far as village level workers are concerned, there are 12 receiving supervisory training 210 have already been trained and 142 are under training.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the T.C.A. has come into the picture, because it was said that T.C.A. would come in in the second year of the projects?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: My friend's question was about the Ford Foundation. I have given all the information I have.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that the hon. Minister said last time that in the first year the Ford Foundation would bear the expenses and in the second year the State Government and the Central Government and the T.C.A. would share the expenses? So, I wanted to know whether the T.C.A. has come into the picture.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I think the scheme is for the Ford Foundation to bear the expenditure in the first year and then introduce proportion later on. I do not think T.C.A. is coming in this scheme. I do not remember the statement to which the hon Member refers.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I refer to Question No. 1073 asked by me? The hon. Minister said: "The expenditure for the first year is met by the Ford Foundation. In the next year, the Government of India and the States and the T.C.A. meet a portion. Later on, after three years it is to be shared by the Government of India and the States. After a time, the States alone have to bear the whole expenditure." This was the answer given to Mr. Heda.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That may presumably be a true and correct statement. If it is so, it only means T.C.A. sharing a portion of expenditure by the Central Government. In that case, it has not to come in. It would be already there.

DINDIGUL-GUDALUR RAIL LINK

***2334. Shri M. D. Ramasami:** will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey for a rail-link between Dindigul and Gudalur was made after the war;

(b) whether it is a fact that this line has been postponed or abandoned in favour of the Madurai-Bodinayakanur line which is being restored now; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). This line has been included in the list of projects which would be considered at the time of selecting new lines the construction of which is to be undertaken in the 2nd Five Year Plan Period.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: May I know why it was postponed?

Shri Alagesan: As far as this is concerned, it is linked with another project, *viz.*, restoration of a dismantled line which was already in existence. The construction of that line—it is called the Madura-Bodinayakanur line—is going on and will be opened to traffic soon. In fact, a part of it has been already opened.

CULTIVATION OF WHEAT IN SANDY AREAS

***2335. Shri H. S. Prasad:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research work is being carried out for production of wheat in sandy areas; and

(b) if so, the results achieved so far?

The Minister of Agriculture Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The work was started with the Rabi Crop of 1953 and the results are not yet available.

UNLOADING CHARGES ON RAILWAYS

***2338. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amendment in the I. R. C. A. Goods Tariff No. 28, providing for lower rates for unloading charges for consignments unloaded by the Railways from the 15th August, 1951 was not given effect to by the Eastern Railway Administration at Howrah Goods Shed;

(b) if so, what is the excess amount realised as a result of this overcharging; and

(c) since when the amendment has been enforced at the Howrah Goods Shed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About Rs. 2.32 lakhs.

(c) 1-11-1953.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Since this amendment was to have been brought into effect as far back as 1951, may I know what are the reasons that led the Government to the postponement of this for two years and who are the authorities responsible for such delay?

Shri Alagesan: In fact, nobody postponed it. This arrangement of charging four pies was there as a result of an agreement between the Indian Produce Association which controls the major volume of inward goods traffic at Howrah and the Eastern Railway Administration. Since it was arrived at as a matter of agreement, it was going on, but then they have said that the excess collected during the period should be refunded. Already, a portion of it has been refunded. The rest will be refunded soon.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know why the excess amount was not returned up till now, and what is the amount still lying with Government and not refunded?

Shri Alagesan: As I said, it is not a very big amount, but it is distributed over a number of people. About 1,000 applications have already been disposed of. Perhaps, an equal number is outstanding. It will also be disposed of soon.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I want to know the reasons why this excess amount was charged and the reason why it has not been refunded. That information has not been given.

Shri Alagesan: I have said this was as a result of an arrangement between the Indian Produce Association and the Eastern Railway Administration. So, it has been going on. When it was detected, it was decided to refund the amount.

SWEET POTATOES

*2339. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether Government have examined the results of experiments made by the U. P. Agricultural Department regarding the nutritional value and suitability of the sweet-potato crop as a fodder crop?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to encourage the production of this crop to serve as a cattle food?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No. The reference is presumably to certain experiments conducted by Shri Boshi Sen at Vivekananda Laboratory, Almora and the answer is in the negative. It is understood that the experiments are still in progress.

(b) Does not arise.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether Government is aware that this sweet potato is more beneficial and suited for human consumption than animal consumption?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are aware of the qualities of sweet potatoes generally.

Shri M. L. Agrawal: Is it the roots or the vine tops that will be used for cattle feed?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The experiments relate both to the sweet potato itself and the use of its leaves and vine tops as fodder.

MYSORE ELEPHANTS

*2340. **Shri N. Rachiah:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of elephants from Mysore exported during 1953;

(b) the total amount realised therefrom; and

(c) the countries to which they were exported?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr P. S. Deshmukh): (a) One.

(b) Nil. It was a gift.

(c) New Zealand.

Shri N. Rachiah: May I know whether it is profitable to export Mysore elephants to other countries?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is for the State Government to determine.

Some Hon. Members *rose—*

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am going to the next question.

RAILWAY MACHINERY REQUIREMENTS

***2344. Shri V. Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an officer of the Southern Railway has been sent to Canada recently for the procurement of railway requirements;

(b) if so, what items are to be procured from Canada; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The officer referred to has been deputed to Canada in connection with inspection of locomotive boilers being provided by that country under the Colombo Plan.

(b)	W. G. Boilers	— 50
	W. P. Locomotives	— 120

(c) Rs. 8.44 crores approximately.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether any of those items for which we have placed orders in foreign countries could be manufactured in our country?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The hon. Member knows very well that we are manufacturing a certain number of boilers and locomotives in this country, but that is not adequate to meet our full requirements. Therefore, in compliance with the Colombo Plan, we are getting some foreign aid.

Shri Muniswamy: What percentage of our requirements of boilers do we import from foreign countries?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We are importing fifty boilers from Canada.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know the percentage. Is it 20 or 50 or 80 per sent. of our requirements?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): That is very difficult to say because our arrears are so much that we have to manufacture here and increase the tempo of manufacture as well as get imports.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know what expenditure has been incurred on behalf of this officer and whether the purchase could not be arranged through the Indian Stores Department in Washington?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The only expense which the Government of India have borne in respect of this officer is the expenses on the journey of his family,—his wife has been allowed to accompany him—and his pay and allowances which he normally draws in India. We are not paying anything extra for his being there. The Government of Canada are bearing the expenses on his stay in Canada and also they have provided for his passage from and to India.

Shri G. P. Sinha *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

AUTOMATIC EXCHANGES

***2345. Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to have automatic exchanges in important places of the country; and

(b) whether Patna town is expected to have an automatic exchange and if so, when?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes; in 1957.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the success so far achieved in this direction and the time expected to be taken in covering all the important places in the country?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In the First Five Year Plan we have eleven new automatic telephone systems to be installed and many more to be expanded, and for certain exchanges we require replacement of old equipment. In accordance with that Plan we hope that the equipment for the Patna scheme will be available by the end of March, 1956, that the buildings also will be ready by that time. We hope the telephone exchange will go through in 1957.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the factors that are taken into consideration in fixing priorities?

Shri Raj Bahadur: First of all, the number of telephone connections required in a particular town, the importance of the town, the traffic that may emanate from that place, then the financial aspects of the whole scheme, getting the new buildings and stores—all these are taken into account.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know whether the topmost priority will be given to places like Gwalior where there existed an automatic exchange which has been removed now and replaced by the other system?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are fully conscious of the necessity of an automatic exchange at Gwalior because it happens to be the capital—part-time capital—of the Government of Madhya Bharat and so it comes within the purview of our accepted scheme. But I must add that the automatic exchange equipment which was replaced by manual system was quite out of date, outmoded and worn out. It was serving no useful purpose. Hence it was changed to manual system.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the cost of the Patna scheme, and by what time is the Calcutta scheme likely to be completed?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The cost of the Patna scheme is about Rs. 58 lakhs. and the Calcutta scheme will be completed by 1957.

DIBRUGARH RAILWAY WORKSHOP

***2346. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 1185 asked on the 21st December, 1953 and state whether it is now contemplated to erect any machines at Dibrugarh Workshop in Assam in place of the three machines transferred to Gorakhpur Workshop?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Yes.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether these machines will be replaced by machines from Gorakhpur Workshops, or orders will be placed outside so that new machines may come and replace them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: These machines are being replaced by older machines from various workshops on the North-Eastern Railway.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Do I understand that no new machines are being brought for the purpose of replacing these machines?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Only the old machines are being sent there.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know what has happened to the workers who are working on these machines in Dibrugarh? Have they been transferred to Gorakhpur or have they been retained or sacked?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They continue to work in Dibrugarh.

TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS

***2347. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Railways have fixed quotas of collections of Travelling Ticket Examiners to be collected from ticketless passengers; and

(b) what is the basis of fixing this quota?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Some Railways have fixed target figures of collections to be aimed at by travelling ticket examiners.

(b) The targets are generally determined in the light of experience taking into account the conditions obtaining on the various sections and the checks which a Travelling Ticket Examiner of normal ability should be able to exercise.

Shri Gidwani: Is it a fact that due to lack of accommodation and overcrowding in compartments there are chances for ticketless travellers to travel without tickets?

Mr. Speaker: Whether overcrowding affords facilities for the ticketless traveller?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There may be overcrowding in certain trains. But, that certainly would not stand in the way of the Travelling Ticket Examiner checking the tickets of the people.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know if it is a fact that on account of the fixation of this quota, upper class passengers at several stations are issued third class tickets and then E.F.Ts. are made out by the T.T.E. to add to their collections?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: This thing has not been brought to our notice and if the hon. Member would give us any specific instances of that, we will certainly look into that.

Shri Gidwani: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that due to overcrowding, it is not possible for the Ticket Inspector sometimes to enter compartments?

QUILON-ERNAKULAM RAILWAY

***2348. Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land have been taken over for the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway in Quilon District and from how many land-holders; and

(b) how many of them have been paid compensation?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) 90 acres of land from 742 land-holders.

(b) Payment of compensation to land-owners is made by the Civil Authorities. So far no amount has been debited to the Railway on this account.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Government is aware that it causes great hardship to the poor landholders who own small plots and whose land is taken away when they neither get alternative land nor compensation?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I am very sorry that people are experiencing hardships on that account. But the fault does not lie with the Ministry of Railways. The compensation is to be paid by the State Government which acquires lands.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Government have received any complaint in this regard and whether they have sent any directives to the State Government to expedite the matter?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): We have drawn the attention of the State Government towards this delay.

दिल्ली इम्प्रूवमेंट ट्रस्ट

***२३५०. श्री नवल प्रभाकर:** क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली इम्प्रूवमेंट ट्रस्ट ने अस्थायी निवास स्थान बनानें वाले विस्थापितों से पिछले दो वर्ष की भूमि के पट्टे की राशि वसूल करने के लिए नोटिस दिए हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितने व्यक्तियों को ऐसे नोटिस दिए गए है ?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

Notices have been issued to displaced as well as non-displaced persons.

(b) About 6,500 persons both displaced and non-displaced have so far been served with notices.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या में जान सकता हूं कि यह जो नोटिस दिए गए हैं, वह डैमेजेज के नाम से दिए गए हैं और यदि हां, तो जो लोग बसे हुए ह उन्होंने उस जमीन को क्या डैमेज किया है ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (राजकूमारी अमृतकौर): यह जो मांगा गया है, तो उसका नाम डैमेजेज ही रक्खा गया है, लेकिन बतौर लीज मनी के है ।

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Six thousand persons are to be affected by this order. May I know if Government have made any alternate arrangements for them if they pay lease money?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: In regard to that, the Improvement Trust have allowed those persons—both displaced and non-displaced persons—who got the land prior to 1950 to stay on those lands until such time as alternative accommodation can be provided to them. But, they are required to pay lease money known as damages for unauthorised use and occupation of the land. Only those who have not paid the damages have been issued notices.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या में जान सकता हूं कि जिन लोगों को नोटिस दिये गए हैं, उन्होंने इस सम्बन्ध में कोई विरोध जाहिर किया है ?

राजकुमारी अमृतकौर : जिन लोगों को नोटिस दिए गये थे, उनमें से १२०० ने तो दे भी दिया है और बाकी हमें उम्मीद है कि वह भी दे देंगे ।

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICES

***2351. Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish more Meteorological Observatories at new centres; and

(b) whether the forecasts prove inaccurate due to the distance between observatories?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) The accuracy of forecasts is not wholly dependent upon the closeness of the network of observatories, though it is an important factor.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know the places where the new observatories would be established?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The places where they are to be established in 1954-55 are as follows:

Mandvi, Radhanpur, Digboi, Ghopur, Champarmukh, Nalbari. Walorg, Balurghat, Palangir, Brahmapuri, Karauli, Bhatinda, Dholpur, Jawai and Chambal.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether the Government propose to give more time in the radio programmes for propaganda of forecast of these observatories?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are very much interested in that. But that question should be addressed to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Mr. Speaker: The point is whether the hon. Minister would make a representation to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think the time allotted to us does fairly meet our requirements. In the case of expansion of meteorological facilities, we shall do so.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या कभी मंत्रालय ने इस सुझाव पर भी विचार किया है

कि एक आबजर्वेटरी हिमालय की ऊंचाई पर भी होनी चाहिए, ताकि वहां की स्थिति का अध्ययन किया जा सके ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जी हां, विचार किया गया है और एक-आध ऐसी आबजर्वेटरी वहां है भी।

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Government have decided that the names of these meteorological observatories will be *Hava pani daftar*?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have seen that name in the newspapers. That does not appear to be an appropriate name.

STATISTICAL WING OF I.C.A.R.

*2352. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of trainees in the statistical wing of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during 1953-54;

(b) how many of these were (i) officers of the Central and State Governments and (ii) private persons; and

(c) the average annual cost per trainee?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) 29.

(b) (i) 10 (ii) 19.

(c) About Rs. 1000/- net.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: May I know how many officers are working in this wing?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not give the exact number, but the existing officials who deal with this matter in the Pusa Institute help this technical training.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the annual budget of this organization?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would require notice. I have given the approximate cost per trainee.

Shri Morarka: May I know what is the relationship between the statistical wing of the I.C.A.R. and the National Sample Survey?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is entirely a separate unit by itself. It has no connection with it except scientific connection.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Is it not advisable to have a separate central statistical organisation?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Bansal: The hon. Minister said there is no connection except scientific connection. What is scientific connection?

Mr. Speaker: I do not permit that question.

MICA MINE ACCIDENT

*2356. **Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some miners were killed in an accident in a mica mine at Baghkhalar in Hazaribagh District on the 22nd April 1954;

(b) the total number of persons killed and injured;

(c) whether any enquiry has been held by the Inspector of Mines; and

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). A report about an alleged accident appeared in the *Searchlight* of Patna on the 20th April 1954, and in the *Hindustan Standard* of the 26th April 1954. The date of the accident was given in the former as the 6th April 1954, and in the latter, as the 24th April 1954. An enquiry was held and the finding is that there is no truth in the news.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know whether there is a mining inspector posted in the mica belt of Bihar?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, there is one.

FOREIGN EXPERTS

***2357. Shri Eswara Reddi:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of experts who have worked under the Indo-U.S. Technical Co-operation Agreement with the Ministry so far;

(b) the number of experts working at present with the Ministry; and

(c) the aspects on which the experts are working at present?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Four.

(b) Sixteen.

(c) Manufacture of biological products, maintenance and servicing of tractors, training of village level workers, agricultural publicity, fisheries, fertiliser and soil survey, soil science, agricultural economics and agricultural marketing, bull trawling operations and for working cutters.

Shri Eswara Reddi: May I know whether any report was submitted by these experts and, if so, on what aspects?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They generally submit reports on all the aspects on which they are engaged.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know whether there was any expert engaged on land reform to be undertaken and whether he has submitted a report?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There was one expert who was engaged on this, and he has submitted a report.

Shri Bansal: May I know whether the salaries of these experts who work with the Ministry are paid by the Government of India or by the American Embassy here?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is not the Embassy. It is the Technical Cooperation Agreement scheme out of which the salaries are paid. The Government of India does not bear any portion of the salary.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know whether the report on land reform of the foreign experts will be placed on the Table of the House?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I think the salient features were given some time back.

BURMA RICE

***2359. Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) when the Burma rice under the recent agreement is expected to arrive at Indian ports; and

(b) to which States it is proposed to be distributed and in what quantities?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The Burma rice, under the recent agreement will start arriving at Indian ports from now onwards.

(b) The distribution will be on all deficit States according to requirements.

Shri Raghuramaiah: What will be the landed cost of the rice?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It will have to be specifically worked out after it has arrived.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether Burma rice compares favourably with our own rice in the matter of price and quality and, if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): In some parts of the country Burma rice is preferred to the rice produced in our own country, and as prices differ from State to State, it will be favourable or unfavourable according to the local prices.

Shri Altekar: May I know whether there is any part of the country which prefers boiled rice and, if so, to what State it is to be supplied?

Shri Kidwai: It is going to be supplied to Travancore-Cochin.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What is the difference between the cost of procurement that an ordinary purchaser can get in Burma and the price that our Government has paid to get it from Burma?

Shri Kidwai: It is a Burma Government monopoly. Therefore, it does not compare with the export price.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: May I know whether the excess of rice production in this country will affect the import of rice from Burma?

Shri Kidwai: I hope not.

Shri Raghuramaiah: Taking into account this import of rice from Burma, may I know whether we are now self-sufficient in rice and, if so, whether procurement is proposed to be stopped?

Shri Kidwai: In most of the States, it has already been stopped. In the States where the producer will find it difficult to market the rice at a reasonable price, the procurement is continued.

CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION BUREAU

***2361. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Health Education Bureau has been established and is functioning; and

(b) if so, the nature of work, if any, so far done by it?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there is any such scheme under the examination of the Ministry and, if so, what is the scope and programme of this scheme?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There is a scheme to establish a Central Health Education Bureau. The scope and activities of that Health Education Bureau will be:

(i) production of film scripts,

(ii) production of health films with the co-operation of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;

(iii) production of health education posters;

(iv) preparation of models;

(v) preparation of health education literature;

(vi) publication of health periodicals and maintenance of a health library with lending facilities; and

(vii) co-ordination of health education activities.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the estimated expenditure in the first two years, and is there going to be any aid from any international agency?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: We were expecting some aid from the UNICEF for equipment, but since the chances are very remote, we have dropped that. We are going to start the Central Health Education Bureau without the aid of the UNICEF. The amount that has to be spent in 1954-55 will be about Rs. 7,44,000, and in 1955-56, capital expenditure is estimated at Rs. 1,90,000 and recurring expenditure at Rs. 2,66,000, totalling about Rs. 12 lakhs for the whole period.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the State Governments are going to participate in this scheme, and if so in what way?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: We will not expect them to participate in the scheme, but they will be utilizing the benefits of the Central Health Education Bureau.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know where it is going to be established?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: It will be in Delhi.

SEA-FISHING

***2362. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) which of the new techniques propounded by the fishery experts of F.A.O. have been accepted and practised in Indian Waters; and

(b) whether there is still any foreign expert with the sea-fishing party of West Bengal?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Bull trawling under expert guidance has been accepted and practised in Indian waters.

(b) Yes, one Danish skipper.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any person from India has been trained abroad in these techniques?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what sort of ships are being used in the Bay of Bengal for fishing?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I cannot give a complete description of the fish, but I think my hon. friend is familiar with the type of fish.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know the type of ships and not the type of fish.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the description.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how far Government have proceeded with the experts' advice that is available for the mechanisation of fishing boats?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Most of the recommendations made by the experts have been accepted, but we have not got the equipment. As soon as the equipment arrives, we will put them into practice.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that it is the Japanese method that is being practised in our waters, and, if so, whether we have trained sufficient number of Indians in the techniques?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Indians are not only working side by side, but also working in certain places independently also. I think we are utilising all the Indian knowledge in fishing.

COCONUT CULTIVATION

***2363. Shri N. Rachiah:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is self-sufficient in Coconuts;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to expand the acreage of Coconut gardens; and

(c) if so, from what year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Work has already been undertaken in this direction.

Shri N. Rachiah: May I know the countries from which import is made to India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Mainly it is I believe Ceylon, but there are some other countries also from which import is made.

Shri N. Rachiah: May I know the total acreage of coconut gardens in Mysore State?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the figures.

Shri Basappa: May I know in which part of the country improved varieties of coconuts are grown and what efforts are made to develop those varieties?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: A special committee is already in charge of this work and I do not think that any particular part of India where coconuts grow fairly well is neglected.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: To part (b) of the question, the reply given is 'yes'. May I know how many additional acres of coconut gardens have been brought into cultivation by Government in recent years?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are no special gardens that have been planted, but the Government is encouraging the establishment of nurseries and giving them better plants. I have not got the figures of exact acreage added.

Shri N. L. Joshi: May I know the value of coconuts imported into the country?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid I cannot give this information, the question should in fact be addressed to the Minister for Commerce and Industry.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the Government is aware that the fall in the price of coconuts in recent months has affected the cultivation, and whether any steps have been taken by Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am aware that price fluctuation affects not only the cultivators but cultivation also. We have tried to minimise imports with a view to encouraging better cultivation of coconuts.

PROCUREMENT OF RICE

***2364. Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rice procured from the different States during the last season (state-wise); and

(b) how this compares with the figures of the previous year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A statement showing the procurement of rice in the different States during the crop year 1952-53 as compared with that during the year 1951-52 is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 51.]

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know if in some States, like West Bengal, where procurement has been stopped, voluntary offers are being made for purchase?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, it is due to larger production.

Shri Bansal: May I know if the attention of the Government has been invited to certain press reports to the effect that huge quantities of rice procured in Orissa are lying uncovered at certain places, where it was procured by Government, and if proper care is not taken, it will all go waste?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kodwai): On account of the sudden increase in the procurement, there were large stocks that were lying in the open and there was some shortage of wagons also, but now the Railways have also made arrangements and storage arrangements have been made in all the States and we hope that before the monsoon breaks, all the rice will be cleared.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: From the statement I find that there is a considerable decrease in the procurement. Is it due to Government intending not to purchase or due to offer not coming up?

Shri Kidwai: It is true that there was decrease in procurement because many States had abolished procurement, but if the figures for the current year are taken into consideration, in States where procurement is voluntary, it has increased, and in some States for want of accommodation for storage and other things, Government had to stop procurement in the middle of the season.

डी० टी० एस०

*२३६५. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या डी० टी० एस० की बसों में १२ वर्ष तक के बच्चों से रेलवे के समान आधा किराया लेने का विचार है ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The question will receive our consideration.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर: क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि इस सम्बन्ध में निर्णय कब तक हो सकेगा ?

श्री शाहनवाज कोई खास वक्त मुकर्रर करना तो मुश्किल है, लेकिन जल्दी इस पर गौर किया जायेगा ।

RENT FROM RAILWAY QUARTERS

*2366. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount realised as rent for residential quarters from railway employees, Zone-wise, during 1953-54; and

(b) to what head of income the rent receipts are credited?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Approximate figures for 1953-54 are furnished in the Statement placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 52.]

(b) The rent receipts are credited to the detailed head 210, Residential Buildings—under abstract Z-Sunday other earnings.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the standard rate of rent for residential quarters?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is generally 10 per cent of the salary.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Is there any relation between the rent and the cost of the building constructed?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Generally, the rent is either 10 per cent. of the salary or four per cent. of the cost of the building, whichever is lower.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the approximate total of the capital cost that has been invested in these buildings?

Mr. Speaker: In what buildings?

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Railway buildings.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I require notice.

श्री गणपति राम : क्या मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि उत्तरी रेलवे में कई ऐसे एम्प्लायी हैं, जिन से स्टैन्डर्ड रेट के अलावा आउटसाइडर्स रेट से चार्ज किया गया है ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री) : इस की जानकारी तो हम नहीं है, लेकिन अगर माननीय सदस्य बतायेंगे तो हम उसे जरूर देखेंगे ।

श्री बांगड़े : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि क्या यह सही नहीं है कि जिन रेलवे कर्मचारियों को मकान दिये गये हैं, उनमें से कई कर्मचारियों ने अपने मकान को किराये पर उठा रक्खा है, और क्या इस किस्म की कोई शिकायत आई है ? और यदि आई है तो उस पर कोई कार्यवाही की गई है ?

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : जी नहीं। लेकिन अगर उन्होंने किसी को किराये पर दिया भी है तो किसी नानरेलवे आदमी को नहीं दिया है, बल्कि रेलवे के अपने ही किसी साथी को दिया है । मगर हम इस बात की कोशिश करते हैं कि किसी तरह की सबलेटिंग न हो ।

MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN AND

*2369. **Shri Eswara Reddi:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any programme for Minor Irrigation Schemes from Andhra State for the year 1954-55;

(b) if so, whether it has been approved; and

(c) the amount allocated for it?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) A loan of Rs. 75.39 lakhs and a grant cf Rs. 16.81 lakhs.

Shri Eswara Reddi: May I know when these minor irrigation works are expected to be completed?

Dr P. S. Deshmukh: Grants are generally given during the course of the year, and within the year they are expected to be completed.

Shri Eswara Reddi: May I know whether the hon. Minister can place on the Table a list of works started by the Andhra Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have got some lists with me here, and if the hon. Member wants, I will supply him with the informaton, I have.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know the approximate acreage that will be benefited by this scheme?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as the 'Grow More Food' schemes are concerned, they keep on coming in and they also accumulate from the previous years. I do not know what particular acreage my friend wants. If he could give me the particular scheme, I could give him the answer. We have got the figures for every scheme.

डी० टी० एस० के लिए केन्द्रीय वर्कशाप

*२३७०. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या डी० टी० एस० की केन्द्रीय वर्कशाप के लिये संयंत्र तथा मशीनें खरीदने के लिए आर्डर दे दिये गए हैं, जिन की चर्चा १९५३-५४ की रिपोर्ट में की गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये मशीनें और संयंत्र कब तक आ जाने की आशा है; और

(ग) इन के खरीदने तथा लगाने पर कितनी राशि खर्च की जायगी ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Orders for some of the items of plant and machinery required for the new Depots and Central Workshop of Delhi Transport Service have been placed.

(b) Some of the items ordered have already been received and the delivery of the remaining items is expected to be completed before the end of August, 1954.

(c) The total amount to be spent on the purchase of the plant and machinery and their installation during the First Five Year period is Rs. 14.33 lakhs.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या में जान सकता हूं कि आज से दो वर्ष पहले भी क्या इस सिलसिले में कुछ मशीनें खरीदी गई थीं ?

Shri Alagesan: We have purchased some machines; we have also placed orders for some others.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या में जान सकता हूं कि जो मशीनें खरीदी गई थीं वह पड़ी पड़ी बेकार हो गई हैं ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री) : जी नहीं बेकार नहीं हुई हैं। मगर यह बात कमी की जरूर थी कि इस के पहले वर्कशाप को बनाने का इन्तजाम नहीं किया गया। हमारी एक सेन्ट्रल वर्कशाप काम कर रही है, उसको हम बढ़ा रहे हैं और उसमें इन मशीनों से काम लिया जायेगा।

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that due to constant break-down of D.T.S. buses on the roads, passengers are put to great inconvenience and have to wait for a considerable time at the bus-stands?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Whenever there is break-down, it is only natural that passengers will be put to inconvenience. If the hon. Member reads the answer given to the main question, he will find that the D.T.S. has set up Central workshops for better maintenance of passenger buses.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know whether the D.T.S. has its own workshop, or it has hired it on rent?

Shri L. B. Shastri: It belongs to us, the D.T.S.

Shri Bansal: May I know the name or names of countries where orders have been placed, and also whether before placing orders, Government had taken into consideration the indigenous capacity, of various types of machinery and machine-tools

Shri Alagesan: The D.G.S.D. would have taken all these factors into consideration; we place orders through him.

AGARTALA AIR OFFICE

***2333. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the present staff, specially in the traffic and ticket issuing branch, at the Agartala air office of the Indian Air Lines Corporation?

(b) Have Government received any complaints that the present time-table from Agartala to Calcutta and *vice-versa* is inconvenient to the passengers?

(c) Is it a fact that due to shortage of staff, passengers travelling from Agartala to Calcutta are not able to insure themselves in time?

(d) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) I lay on the Table a statement giving the required information. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 53.]

(b) The present timings of the air services between Calcutta and Agartala do not provide a connection at Calcutta with the inward night air mail services. The question of revising the time table to provide such a connection has been engaging the attention of the Indian Air Lines Corporation.

(c) Insurance facilities are available for air passengers both at the City Booking Office and at the airport at Agartala. The strength of the staff posted is adequate and it should be possible for a passenger to get himself insured if he reports in time.

(d) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

POSTAL EMPLOYEES

***2328. Shri Raghavaiah:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the orders of the Chief Administrative Medical Officer are required before a patient who is a postal employee can get a transfer from one clinic to another, for medical treatment; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

ROAD BRIDGE OVER NARBADA

***2336. Shri Syed Ahmed:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to construct a road bridge over the River Narbada at Burma in Hoshangabad District?

(b) If so, when is the construction work likely to start?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Early in 1955.

BORO PADDY

***2337. Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experiments are being carried on to evolve better quality of Boro paddy;

(b) if so, where the research is being carried on; and

(c) what arrangements have been made to make the results available to the Boro-cultivators?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Chinsurah Farm, West Bengal.

(c) The work is still in progress. and results will be made available to public if the attempt is successful.

दानेदार चीनी का उत्पादन

***२३४१. श्री राम जी वर्मा :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि कुटीर उद्योग के रूप में दानेदार चीनी बनाने के लिये किसी मशीन का आविष्कार किया गया है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Yes.

RAILWAY SALOONS

***2342. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average cost of an inspection carriage including the fittings and furniture provided therein; and

(b) the cost of the most costly saloon and the category of officers who use it?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The present-day cost of a bogie Inspection Carriage is about Rs. 1½ locs though most carriages in service were built originally at a cost of about 1/3rd of this amount.

(b) About Rs. 2½ lacs. It is used in the pool of saloons reserved for High Government Officials of the Central Government.

PURCHASE OF MACHINERY FOR RAILWAYS

***2343. Shri Tulsidas:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate-General of Supply is entrusted with the work of purchase of plant and machinery for the Railways against their anual and ad hoc requirements;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board have recently taken a dicision to obtain some of their requirements of plant and machinery against the 1954-55 programme directly from London; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes except for the Plant and Machinery for Chittaranjan Locoworks & integral Coach Factory, Perambur.

(b) There has been no change in the procedure.

(c) Does nct arise.

विमान दुर्घटना

२६४९. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि १० अप्रैल, १९५४ को विन्ध्य प्रदेश में रीवा से २० मील दूर, सतना में हिन्द प्राविन्शल फ्लाइंग क्लब का एक विमान गिर पड़ा जिसके फलस्वरूप उसके चालक तथा यात्री की तत्काल मृत्यु हो गई; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो दुर्घटना के कारण क्या थे ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The accident is still under investigation.

RAILWAY BOARD

***2353. Shri V. Missir:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) when the job analysis for gazetted staff in the Office of the Railway Board was last carried out;

(b) what was the number of posts of gazetted officers justified according to the job analysis referred to in part (a) above; and

(c) what is the actual strength on date?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) In 1951.

(b) The number of posts of a permanent nature was fixed at 27. In addition 3 temporary posts were sanctioned for work of a temporary nature.

(c) The strength on date, excluding Officers on Special Duty and the temporary posts sanctioned for the Rail Movements Organisations at Calcutta and Moghalsarai is 50.

JOY FLIGHTS

***2354. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) how many joy flights were undertaken by the Indian Air Lines Corporation in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Hyderabad during 1953; and

(b) the total number of passengers carried on these flights?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 17 Joy flights were carried out by the Corporation in Bombay and 4 in Hyderabad. No such flights were carried out by the Corporation in Delhi, Calcutta or Madras.

(b) 522.

ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES

***2355. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases wherein prosecutions were launched against officials responsible for fatal accidents in the coal mines during 1952 and 1953; and

(b) how many of them resulted in conviction?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Fifteen.

(b) Two. The rest are still pending in courts for decision.

BHAGALPUR-MANDARHILL RAILWAY LINE

***2358. Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the restoration of 32-mile long Bhagalpur-Mandarhill railway line; and

(b) the time taken in its restoration?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The estimated cost of restoration is Rs. 61 lakhs approximately.

(b) About a year.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT

***2360. Shri Janardhan Reddy:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a passenger train bound for Delhi from Bhusaval, collided with a goods train at Harda Station on the Bhusaval-Itarsi Section of the Central Railway on the 27th April, 1954; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this accident?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) At about 12-55 hours on 27-4-1954 No. 361 Down

Bhusaval-Delhi Passenger train entered the Down Goods Loop Line at Harda station and collided with some wagons already standing on the same line.

(b) An enquiry into the accident commenced on 1st May, 1954. *Prima facie* the accident was caused by failure to set correctly the points for the reception of the passenger train.

TRAINING IN TELEPHONE OPERATION

***2367. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons who received training in telephone operation in 1953; and

(b) how many of them were absorbed in service?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The total number of candidates who were given training in telephone operation during 1953 was 909.

(b) Out of these, 897 were absorbed in service as telephone operators during 1953.

SINGARENI COLLIERIES

***2368. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) how many quarters have been constructed by the management of Singareni Collieries Company from the grant of Rupees Five Lakhs given by Government in September, 1953;

(b) whether any conditions were stipulated by Government and if so, what; and

(c) whether Government propose to expedite the construction work in view of the fact that many workers live in huts?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) None.

(b) A statement showing the conditions stipulated is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 54]

(c) Yes. The Company is being asked to expedili the construction.

दिल्ली में टेलीफोन के कनेक्शन

४९८. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५३ में दिल्ली और नई दिल्ली में टलीफोन के कितने नये कनेक्शन दिए गए और किस आधार पर ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 55.]

ट्रैक्टरों से खेती

४९९. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) एक ट्रैक्टर औसतन कितनी भूमि की जुताई करने के बाद बेकार घोषित किया जाता है; और

(ख) प्रति एकड़ जुताई की लागत कितनी होती है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) On an average, a 30 horse-power cultivation tractor if put on ploughing work only, can plough about 10,000 acres on sandy loam soil before being declared unfit for further use. As however, a tractor is hardly ever used exclusively for ploughing and is widely used for other farm operations, transport purposes, etc., the above figure is not generally reached in practice by an average farmer having only one or two tractors. The acreage mentioned above is only an average, and the output actually is a varying factor depending on the implements used, speed of operation, condition of the soil, etc. Similarly, the life of a tractor, which has been taken to be 10,000 hours while working out the output indicated above, is also a variable factor which depends on the amount of care given to it, the repairs undertaken, extent of use, climate of the place, type of work, etc.

(b) The per-acre cost is also very much dependent on the conditions mentioned above. On an average, the cost of ploughing on sandy loam soil upto a depth of 7" comes to about Rs. 20 to Rs. 30/- per acre.

NEW RAILWAY STATIONS

500. Shri M. L. Agrawal: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new full-fledged stations, Flag and Halt-Stations opened on the six Zonal Railways during 1952-53 and 1953-54;

(b) the expenditure incurred in opening them; and

(c) the earning from these stations in the same period?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a)—

	1952-53	1953-54
Ordinary Stations	35	29
Flag Stations	15	25
Halt Stations	7	12

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

INDIAN TELEPHONE INDUSTRIES

501. Shri Thimmaiah: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the welfare measures so far taken for the workers and lower grade staff of Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 56.]

माल गाड़ी के डिब्बे

५०२. **श्री ओ० एल० चौधरी :**
श्री लोटन राम :

क्या रेलवे मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के आइजटनगर कार्यालय में मैलानी-कोडियालाघाट लाइन के किन किन स्टेशनों से वैगन रजिस्टर कराये गए;

(ख) कितने वैगन रजिस्टर कराये गए;

(ग) कितने वैगन दिए गए; और

(घ) वे कितने समय के बाद दिए गए?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Indents for wagons are registered at the stations themselves including the eight on the Mailani-Kauriala Ghat Section of the North-Eastern Railway.

(b) and (c). During the Calendar Year, 1953, indents for 5787 wagons were registered at the stations on the Mailani-Kauriala Ghat Section. of these 255 wagons were loaded and indents for 1583 wagons were withdrawn and cancelled. At the end of the year registrations for 1949 wagons were outstanding. Judged in the light of the experience of large scale withdrawals of indents on liberal supply of wagons, the outstanding registrations did not necessarily reflect the actual quantum of traffic that was then awaiting clearance.

(d) Average time taken in clearance of individual indents during 1953 was about three months, the minimum being 16 days.

RAILWAY RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

503. Shri Meghnad Saha: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a department of scientific research on Railways has been created;

(b) if so, where; and

(c) on what items researches will be carried out?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Research on Indian Railways started as early as 1935 and was being carried out by the Central Standards Office for Railways. From 1-9-52, the Research section of that Office was re-organised and set up as an independent unit called Railway Testing and Research Centre.

(b) Headquarters are at Lucknow with two sub-centres, one at Lonavala and the other at Chittaranjan.

(c) The activities at Lucknow Centre are, at present, largely confined to field test units which determine the effect of various types of locos on track and to the performance trials of new types of locos. Stress analysis of new rail sections and other fittings will also be carried out shortly.

The activities of the Lonavala Sub-Centre are to render advice to the Railways on the grading of conccrete mixtures and carry out foundation soil investigations for important buildings, bridges, and other structures.

At Chittaranjan, there is a Metallurgical & Chemical Laboratory where detailed microscopic, physcal and chemical examinations of various materials are carried out. New types of materials are also studied with a view to determine their suitability for Railway use.

देशीय चिकित्सा प्रणालियां

५०४. **श्री बादशाह गुप्त :** क्या स्वास्थ्य मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि सरकारी सहायता प्राप्त ऐंसी संस्थाओं के नाम क्या हैं जहां यूनानी चिकित्सा प्रणाली की शिक्षा दी जाती है ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

PASSENGER AMENITIES

505. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the number of Railway Stations and their names on the Southern Railway in the State of Madras where electric lighting and installations of fans on platforms have been proposed to be undertaken under the amenities programme chalked out recently?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Fifteen stations on the Southern Railway within the State of Madras are programmed to be electrified during 1954-55. Names of these stations are indicated below:—

(1) Mecdonald Choultry,
(2) Aravankadu.
(3) Coonoor.
(4) Timmachipuram.
(5) Kadambattur.
(6) Walajahbad.
(7) Kadambur.
(8) Kallal.
(9) Pettai.
(10) Salem East.
(11) Tirukoilur.
(12) Tirukkadaiyur.
(13) Mangudi.
(14) Arni Road.
(15) Rameswaram.

Fans are not proposed to be provided on platforms at these stations but fans would be provided in Upper and III class waiting rooms.

देहरादून आदि में डाक व तार घर

५०६. **श्री भक्त दर्शन :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५३-५४ में देहरादून, गढ़वाल, टीहरी गढ़वाल, अल्मोड़ा और नैनीताल जिलों में कितने नए डाक व तार घर,

लीफोन एक्सचेंज खोले गए और सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन लगाए गए;

(ख) क्या इन में से कोई कार्यालय तब से बन्द भी किया गया है?

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) १९५३-५४ के अन्त में इन पांच ज़िलों में ऐसे कार्यालयों की कुल संख्या कितनी थी ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (d). A statement giving the information about Post & Telegraph Offices is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 57.]

Regarding Telephone Exchanges and Public Call Offices information is being collected.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

उत्तर प्रदेश तथा बिहार की चीनी मिलें

५०७. **श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बिहार तथा उत्तर प्रदेश की चीनी मिलों ने गत साल की तुलना में इस साल औसत से कितने दिनों तक ईख पेरने का काम किया; और

(ख) पिछले साल की अपेक्षा इस साल प्रति सौ मन ईख से औसत से कितनी चीनी निकली ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The average number of crushing days and average recovery obtained in the sugar factories of U.P. and Bihar during the seasons 1953-54 and 1952-53, were as under:—

	Average number of crushing days		Average recovery percentage	
	1953-54 (Estimated)	1952-53	1953-54 (Estimated)	1952-53
West U.P.	110	121	9.81	9.79
East U.P.	70	118	9.90	9.80
North Bihar	68	124	10.09	10.04
South Bihar	40	98	9.75	9.87

केंद्रीय ट्रैक्टर संघटन

५०८. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि आजकल केन्द्रीय ट्रैक्टर संघटन में कितने विदेशी विशेषज्ञ काम कर रहे हैं ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): One foreign expert is working with the Organisation at present.

अण्डमान तथा निकोबार द्वीपों से इमारती लकड़ी

५०९. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अण्डमान तथा निकोबार द्वीपों से प्रति वर्ष कितनी इमारती लकडी भारत के विभिन्न भागों को भेजी जाती है; और

(ख) टिकाऊ होने की दृष्टि से यह कैसी होती है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The quantity of timber exported to various places

on the mainland during the last three years is given below:—

	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
	tons	tons	tons
Calcutta	24,612	19,945	15,147
Madras	7,979	5,160	4,724
Bombay	501	Nil.	Nil.

(b) The Andaman hardwoods are very durable after they have been seasoned. Softwoods are used generally for matches and packing cases where durability is of no account.

डी० टी० एस० कर्मचारियों को चिकित्सा की सुविधाएं

५१०. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या परिवहन मंत्री डी० टी० एस० की १९५३ की रिपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस के कर्मचारियों को चिकित्सा सम्बंधी क्या सुविधाएं दी जाती हैं;

(ख) इस काम के लिये कितने डाक्टर तथा अन्य कर्मचारी रखे गये हैं; और

(ग) "चिकित्सा सम्बन्धी सुविधाएं" इस शीर्ष के अधीन कर्मचारियों पर कितना खर्च किया जाता है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The following medical facilities are provided by the Delhi Road Transport Authority for its employees:-

(1) The Medical Officer goes round daily to Depots and the Central Workshop to give medical advice to the staff. In emergent cases he visits employees at their residences;

(2) Ordinary medicines prescribed by the Medical Officer and which are generally available in Government or Municipal dispensaries, are supplied free of cost from the dispensary set up by the Authority;

(3) The Delhi Road Transport Authority has joined the Employees State Insurance Scheme and some of its staff, who are entitled to the privileges admissible under the scheme, get free medical treatment in the dispensaries and hospitals set up under the scheme.

(b) One doctor and one compounder.

(c) Rs. 4840/- approximately during the year 1953-54.

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Dated.....27.11.2014

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 10th May, 1954

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See Part I*)

9-07 A.M.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ACCIDENT IN SINGARENI COLLIERIES

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): Sir, under Rules 215, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Labour to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

> "On 2nd April, 1954, 5 miners were crushed to death in Singarem Collieries, Kothagudium, Hyderabad, as a result of the collapse of a part of a roof in a coal-pit there. Accidents of this nature, taking heavy toll of miners' lives and crippling even more of them have been repeatedly taking place in these collieries, creating a natural sense of danger and insecurity and causing acute unrest among the mine workers.
>
> The Government should therefore take immediate and effective steps in order to institute a proper enquiry into this accident in active association with the Union representatives and adopt measures in order to prevent the recurrence of such accidents in these collieries."

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): On the 2nd April 1954, there was a sudden fall of a mass of roof-stone in the Kothagudium Colliery, resulting in the death of five persons.

The average daily strength of labour employed in this mine during February 1954 was 10,868.

The place of accident had been developed between the years 1945 and 1947, long before the Central Mines Act was extended to Hyderabad. King seam which is being worked in this area includes a stone band about 8 feet from the roof. The roof is of massive sandstone and galleries have been driven on the top of the seam exposing the roof.

On the 2nd April 1954, when three labourers were employed in cutting this stone band, and nine other labourers were engaged in loading coal, a mass of roof stone measuring 40/30 feet and having a maximum thickness or 10 feet suddenly collapsed, killing four of the miners. Another person died while being carried up to the surface during rescue operations. which were started immediately after the accident.

The grain size of the fallen mass of sandstone was very uneven. There were also large black areas exposed in the roof which had formed a plane of weakness but this defect could not have been noticed when the roof was intact as the fallen roof stone was about 10 feet thick. The fall was,

[Shri Abid Ali]

therefore, caused by the existence of a concealed plane of weakness in the roof coupled with poor cohesion due to its uneven grain size.

This type of roof condition has never been noticed before in this mine. There have been instances when an area upto 400 feet by 400 ft. had been extracted, timber supports had been withdrawn and still the roof had not come down. The fall in the present case appears to have occurred on account of the presence of a geological disturbance which weakened the cohesion in the roof strata, and was, therefore, most unexpected. The place had been adequately timbered in accordance with the rules. The mine has a full complement of managerial and subordinate staff who possess the requisite technical qualifications. The place of accident had been inspected by the Assistant Manager along with an underlooker about two hours before the accident, and was found to be safe. A detailed enquiry made by the Inspector of Mines has shown that nobody was responsible for the accident and that it was a case of misadventure.

Statistics of fatal accidents in the Singareni Collieries for the last three years show that the death rate per 1000 persons employed in 1953 was half the death rate of 1952 and only about 42 per cent. of the death rate in 1951.

The death rate due to accidents in Indian Coal Mines has also been progressively on the decline, the rate ·72 per 1000 persons employed for the year 1950 that is, the year immediately preceding the extension of the Central Mines Act to Part B States being the lowest on record. The rate for 1949 was ·75. This compared favourably with the rate of 2·59 for Canada, 2·19 for U.S.A., 1·65 for Japan, 1·64 for South Africa, ·99 for Australia, ·83 for France and 75 for the United Kingdom.

The staff of the Mines Department is being strengthened to enable the Inspectorate to make more frequent inspections so as to secure further improvements in safety in mining.

Compensation to the dependents of the deceased will be paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (2) of rule 239 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, twenty-five members from among their number to be members of the Committee on Estimates for the year 1954-55."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (2) of rule 239 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, twenty-five members from among their number to be members of the Committee on Estimates for the year 1954-55."

The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I beg to move:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 238 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the people, fifteen members from among their number to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the year 1954-55."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule

238 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, fifteen members from among their number to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the year 1954-55."

The motion was adopted.

ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS FROM COUNCIL OF STATES WITH PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I beg to move:

> "That this House recommends to the Council of States that they do agree to nominate seven members from the Council to associate with the Public Accounts Committee of this House for the year 1954-55 and to communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by the Council."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

> "That this House recommends to the Council of States that they do agree to nominate seven members from the Council to associate with the Public Accounts Committee of this House for the year 1954-55 and to communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by the Council."

The motion was adopted

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that the following programme of dates has been fixed for receiving nominations and withdrawal of candidatures, and for holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee—

(1) Nominations to be filed in the Parliamentary Notice Office upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 14th May, 1954.

(2) Withdrawal of candidates will be received in the Parliamentary Notice Office upto 12 Noon on Saturday, the 15th May, 1954.

(3) Elections, if necessary, will be held on Wednesday, the 19th May, 1954 in Committee Room No. 62, First Floor, Parliament House, between the hours 8.30 A.M. and 11 A.M.

Shri T. N. Singh (Banaras Distt.—East): I want to know one thing. During the time of discussion of the association of the Members of the Upper House, we were told that the rules of procedure for the joint meetings will be made available to us. Now that we are having a Joint Committee for that purpose, I would like to know whether the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business will be made available to us, and if so, when.

Mr. Speaker: It seems that there is some misconception on the part of the hon. Member. I think he refers to the motion for election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee and if he sees the motion, he would find that all that is accepted by the House is to recommend to the Council of States that they do agree to nominate seven members from the Council of States to associate with the Public Accounts Committee. It is not a question of a Joint Committee. It is a Committee of this House with the association of seven Members of the Council of States.

Shri T. N. Singh: I was only referring to the assurance given in this House about the Rules of Procedure.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a Joint Committee. It is a Committee of the House of the People under the control of the Speaker. So far as the deliberations and voting and other things are concerned, they are of the same status. they are Members after all. The only difference will be that they will be under the control of the Speaker of the House of the People and not under the control of the Chairman of the Council of States so far as their functioning in the Public Accounts Committee is concerned. That is the only difference.

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act. 1934."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I introduce* the Bill.

RUBBER (PRODUCTION AND MARKETING) AMENDMENT BILL—*concld.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with further consideration of the motion moved by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari on the 8th May 1954, namely:—

> "That the Bill further to amend the Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri A. M. Thomas. Shri Amarnath Vidyalankar, Shri Ramananda Das, Shri Lalit Narayan Mishra, Shri A. Ibrahim, Shri Ram Dhani Das, Shri M. K. Shivananjappa, Shri C. R. Iyyunni, Shri Bheekha Bhai, Shri Piare Lall Kureel Talib, Choudhary Raghubir Singh, Shri Bulaqi Ram Varma, Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva, Shri Hira Vallabh Tripathi, Shri U. R. Bogawat, Shri Gulabshankar Amritlal Dholakia, Shri S. C. Deb, Shri M. Muthukrishnan, Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta, Shri I. Eacharan, Shri Sohan Lal Dhusiya, Shri N. C. Govindaswami Kachiroyar, Dr. Natabar Pandey, Shri R. Velayudhan, Shri Y. Gadilingana Gowd, Shri Nettur P. Damodaran, Shri P. T. Punnoose, Shri Mangalagiri Nanadas, Shri Sivamurthi Swami, Shri M. R. Krishna, Shri D. P. Karmarkar and Shri T. T. Krishnamachari with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next session."

There is also an amendment to the effect that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th April, 1955.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): The hon. Minister was to be called for reply. The discussion had closed that day.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I would like first to deal with the motion for circulation moved by the hon. Member, Shri Sreekantan Nair. The motion is avowedly a dilatory one and is intended to have a negative effect—in effect to vote down the motion before the House. The hon. Member who moved the amendment did not disguise his intention in any manner. In fact, I had anticipated in some measure a possible argument that might be put forward for not dealing with the measure now. That was that a committee has been appointed to go into all matters affecting the plantation industries and that there was no need for this measure.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let there be no talk.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I had indicated, to the extent that I am able to make myself clear, that the needs of the rubber industry which ought to be met in the immediate future or should have been met all along, are not exactly covered by the scope of the work of this committee. It may be, they would overlap.

The hon. Members would realise that this Bill was brought forward sometime in 1952. A year and six months had lapsed before we took it into consideration. I do not suppose any hon. Member, however uncharitable he might be, would be inclined to say that the Commerce and Industry Ministry has no work and in order to provide some work they have thought of a Bill of this nature, drafted it and put it before the

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*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

House. Surely, that is not fact, It is really intended to progress the development of the industry. It was found that in the organisational set-up which covers the works of this industry there are lacunæ which have to be remedied. The question of organisation was dealt with. The idea of democracy was brought into play and it was suggested: why should not there be an elected Chairman? I have said to the extent that I have been able to point out that the executive of the Board is not strong. The executive, at the moment, consists of a Rubber Production Commissioner who is a technical man. We have found in practical experience that a full-time Chairman is necessary in order to deal with the work of this Board. It was suggested why should there be a Vice-Chairman who should not be elected? In fact, I have conceded this point in the Tea Board Act. The Tea Board elects the Vice-Chairman. Even amongst the representatives of the rubber industry who did not agree *in toto* with the Bill, there was a difference of opinion whether or not there should be a full-time Chairman.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

A full-time Chairman for dealing with the executive work of a Board which is intended primarily to develop an industry is, in my humble opinion, not anti-democratic.

Again, there are certain other facts which I should like to bring to the notice of the House. The Tariff Board in its Report in 1951 had indicated broadly certain lines of development, and in para. 16 of its Report in 1951 it has mentioned these facts:

(1) If the Indian rubber plantation industry is to survive and compete in a free world market, it is essential that rubber should be produced as cheaply as possible in the country, and this can be only done by the introduction of new high-yielding clones.

(2) We believe that the proposals made under the scheme are well-conceived. But we think it desirable that the details of the scheme should be fully examined. We recommend that the I.C.A.R. should be requested to examine the scheme and report to Government as to whether any modifications in the scheme are necessary.

(3) The I.C.A.R. should, while examining the development scheme, also consider the proposal for the creation of a separate Development Fund. Pending the examination of this matter by the I.C.A.R. and the consideration of the Council's recommendations in this behalf by Government, the rubber producers should be allowed to retain the Rs. 6·82 per 100 lbs. provided for rehabilitation and be given an opportunity to undertake rehabilitation work in their estates and holdings.

(4) If it is found at the end of a year, that the rubber growers are not utilizing the amount for rehabilitation, of their estates and holdings, Government should consider the question whether the fair selling price to be paid to the rubber growers should not be reduced by the amount of the rehabilitation fund instalment provided by us in our estimate of fair selling prices.

This is what the Tariff Board said in 1951. Actually, this has again been reiterated in 1952 by the officer who went into the question of fair prices.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Did the I.C.A.R. submit any report, as contemplated?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am coming to that point.

So what has really happened is that no move has been made in the matter. Neither has the question been examined, nor has any further action been taken. I do not propose to apportion any blame on anybody. But it happens that commenting on the appointment of a Plantation Committee, an organ called *Rubber India*, which is supposed to represent the interests of the industry as such, has pointed out that in view of the fact that the Rs. 6·82 which is allowed in the price for the purpose of development has not been made use of, Government should reduce the price to that extent. It is

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

not my intention in any way to interfere with the price that the rubber producer gets. I am not one of those who believes that he is getting an undue price. On the other hand, I believe that probably the price is not very attractive so far as the small holdings are concerned. I am just pointing this out to say that there is a lack of coordination. And if today I have in this Bill asked for powers for Government to realise a cess so as to undertake development, I have done so because there has been no organisation to implement the recommendations of the Tariff Board and if the suggested charges are not made there would be no organisation to utilise the cess to be collected, and it may be ultimately that when the new Board comes into being, provided the House approves of the scheme and also the Select Committee approves of the scheme, as also the enhanced cess, payments out of the cess may be made conditional on an equal amount coming from the producers for development. We can readapt the suggestion of the Tariff Board so as to enable us to undertake development. These matters cannot afford to wait, and we cannot wait for the committee's report. There may be various facets to be examined when that report comes out. All this will take time. I, as a member of the Government, am not prepared to take shelter under the usual excuse that "I have appointed a committee and therefore my responsibility is over".

Therefore I maintain that this question of shelving the Bill is wrong. In fact any person who suggests that it should be shelved and nothing should be done for the development of the industry is not serving the interests of the industry at all.

Other hon. Members spoke about the non-democratic nature of the Board that is to be constituted, and we had various lectures on democratic aspects, that democracy must begin from the top and end at the bottom and so on. I have no quarrel with any person voicing his own views on democracy. One of the subjects on which there can be a variety of opinions in the subject of democracy. It has been my good fortune that I attended one of these international gatherings under the auspices of the U.N., and I found in the expression of the views of the two blocs on democracy each one saying that it represents democracy and that the other does not— and, I do not know, probably democracy is somewhere in between, with people who have not got the necessary amount of pull, like us and not with either of the blocs. But I do not propose to enter into a discussion of that subject. Mention was made about the way in which we nominated members to the Tea Board, as an illustration of how Government does not act well. When the Bill in respect of the Tea Board Act was on the anvil, I gave an assurance....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I find discussions going on in groups. The hon. Minister will wait for a second before all these discussions are ended. I do not like hon. Members standing and carrying on conversations. We ought not to distract the attention of the House by conversations within groups. Hon. Members may go into the lobby and talk. The hon. Minister may go on. I want the undistracted attention of every hon. Member in this House to what is going on, in the order in which it is going on. If hon. Members cannot spend the time here, the lobbies are much bigger and larger than the House itself, and they can go there.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: At the time the Tea Board Bill was on the anvil, I gave an assurance that Government would not nominate *suo motu*, but would take into account the recommendations of the various bodies which are really concerned with the Industry. I do maintain that I have carried out my assurance right to the very last word. Various Associations were asked to send names. Mention was made about Travancore-Cochin. Between Travancore-Cochin and the rest of South India there are two

Planters' Associations, the U.P.A.S.I. and the Associated Planters of Travancore. I do not know the exact set-up of these organisations, but I am told on very good authority that the membership overlaps. In fact in the recommendations that came some of the names were similar. The Travancore Association sent three names, two Europeans and one Indian. We could not take the Indian because the name of another was suggested by the U.P.A.S.I. which we accepted, and there is a connection between the two as they were associated with the same firm. The two Europeans whose names were suggested, declined, both of them. We asked for further names. and the name that was given was in the matter of membership really common between the two organisations. The U.P.A.S.I. has given the name of a planter, whose name I may mention, Shri Ananta Sivan, who, I understand, is a member both of the U.P.A.S.I. and the Associated Planters of Travancore. I do not know the gentleman...

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara): As a matter of explanation, may I know if it is not a fact that that gentleman is in Coimbatore and has nothing to do with Travancore-Cochin?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If my hon. friend had waited for a minute he would have had the information. I sent a telegram to the correspondent that I have in Kottayam. He said that the person is a Travancorean, belongs to Kottayam, and is a director of a firm whose registered office is at Kottayam and who are managing agents of several tea estates in Travancore-Cochin to the extent of three thousand acres, besides other estates in Malabar and Coorg. Either this telegram must be giving facts completely wrong, or my hon. friend's information is slightly imperfect.

The other issue that was raised by my friend Shri Tripathi was this. He mentioned about Assam having no labour member belonging to his own organisation. Actually, hon. Members opposite, at any rate, must do me this justice at least. I have not been looking to the question of representation of labour according to organisations. The hon. Member over there mentioned that the representative of labour from South India did not belong to a particular organisation. We had to fit in various organisations.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): You are impartial in the sense that you overlook the real representative.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have overlooked none. I asked for particular organisations to send names In fact, we selected the names of representatives from each organisation. This particular Member representing Assam belongs to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha. I can also mention why another Member from Assam from labour point of view has been left out. The name of my hon. friend Shri K. P. Tripathi was suggested for the representation of the INTUC. Unfortunately, owing to the possible disqualification of membership of Parliament, the Law Ministry said that a Member of Parliament should not come in except as a representative of Parliament. Therefore, we had to write and ask Shri K. P. Tripathi, would your organization suggest somebody else? He suggested a name but he did not happen to come from Assam. It is a case of the responsibility of his being passed on to me.

Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darrang): We did suggest names. You chose a member of the H.M.S. which has no representation in Assam really. That is the objection.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am saying that finally when Shri K. P. Tripathi's name had to be substituted, he gave the name of a gentleman who did not belong to Assam. He should have given an Assam name. He did not. There is no point in going back to fundamentally what happened when he and I were born. I am asking, at the final stage, when his name had to be substituted, why he did not suggest somebody from Assam?

Shri T. N. Singh (Banaras Distt.—East): Why do you call it fundamental?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is so far as our misdeeds are concerned. I maintain in all humility that my conscience is clear. I have carried out the assurances that I have given in the House. I have not exercised any patronage. I hardly know any of the members. It was suggested that some body who happened to be sent to America was a distant cousin of mine, which he is not. The Tea Board asked for two names from the North and South India. The organisations gave the names and it was accepted by the Board. I ultimately knew about that. It may be, later on, when I want some kind of study to be made in a particular country, I may ask a particular person who is qualified to go. In these circumstances, I had not even the faintest knowledge of the persons that were selected or that he was a distant cousin though he comes from a different part of India namely Gujrat.

I have only to deal with the remarks which fell from my hon. friend Shri K. P. Tripathi, which did not quite concern this Bill. Shri K. P. Tripathi is a good friend of mine, a well-intentioned man, a well-meaning person. He likes tri-partite enquiries. Perhaps I do not. Why he likes that, I do not know. Perhaps that is because '*trayam*' is common between his name and tripartite enquiries. I found to my cost that in the tri-partite enquiry made in Calcutta about tea, both labour and capital decided that the Government ought to pay. We are often left high and dry in such enquiries. Tri-partite enquiries are good in regard to matters that concern only labour and capital. When a third and bigger element, namely, the people of the country, is concerned, I maintain that tri-partite enquiries are not good. That is a matter of difference of opinion and I think as a democrat, Shri K. P. Tripathi would concede that I am entitled to have my own views.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah (Golaghat-Jorhat): May I ask for a clarification from the hon. Minister? I understood him to say that Shri K. P. Tripathi could not be accepted and that Shri K. P. Tripathi did not suggest any Assamese name.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Shri K. P. Tripathi was asked and he did suggest names.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: And that could not be accepted?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That was accepted. It did not happen to be an Assamese name. I do not want to create any trouble between Shri K. P. Tripathi and Shri Debeswar Sarmah.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: There is no trouble between us. I want a clarification because he is trying to confuse the issue. I want to know clearly, when Shri K. P. Tripathi could not be accepted, did he or did he not suggest an Assamese name? My information from Shri K. P. Tripathi, who is sitting near me, is that he did suggest an Assamese name but that the hon. Minister could not accept it.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I can mention this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This matter has been already explained. Perhaps, the hon. Member was not here.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: I have been listening to the whole thing.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to submit that I asked Shri K. P. Tripathi to telephone to my office the name which he wanted. The Joint Secretary, who took that telephone from Shri K. P. Tripathi, I think will bear out what I have said. We have accepted his suggestion. Between X and Y, what does it matter? If X comes from Bengal and Y comes from Assam. I merely took the advice of the organisation so far as I am concerned in the choice of the person.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: We are left in confusion. The issue has been confused. I beg your pardon.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not going to allow this. How long are we to carry on this?

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: If you are not going to allow, that is a different matter. This is an important matter and it is being confused.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members must have some sense of proportion in this House. This point has been debated enough. The hon. Minister is replying to the debate. At one time, Shri K. P. Tripathi put that question or made the suggestion as Shri Debeswar Sarmah is doing now. The hon. Minister pointed out what happened. It will be his answer. He must remember all these things. He cannot go on cross-examining endlessly until he is satisfied. I do not feel that either party will be satisfied so far as this matter is concerned.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I point out that the hon. Minister has said that he asked for two names, that I gave two names, that one was accepted and one was rejected? I am sure that what I said has been supported by what the hon. Minister has said.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Personal explanation ought to come from Shri K. P. Tripathi and not from Shri Debeswar Sarmah.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: I have been listening to the whole thing. The greatest injustice has been done to Assam interests in this Bill. I wish that this should go on record.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has doubly gone on record. Shall I underline it?

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: You must not take it lightly. It has injured Assamese interests.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not taking it lightly. I cannot go on allowing the same matter to be debated over and over again. for each emphasis allowing 5 minutes. There must be an end to this.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It may be that when Shri K. P. Tripathi was called upon to suggest names at the spur of the moment, he suggested a name which may perhaps be not quite proper. We were naturally guided by his suggestion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it too late now to amend?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It cannot be changed. Unless the gentleman resigns, I cannot appoint anybody. I have no desire to go further into this matter.

My hon. friend Shri K. P. Tripathi wound up his address with a melodramatic touch. He said that he was the voice of India speaking and that I shall discard that voice at my peril. Sometimes we have to have a lighter touch even in our debates. I assume that my friend's contribution was intended for that purpose. Naturally if the voice of India speaks, we cannot discard the voice of India except at our peril.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th April, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri A. M. Thomas, Shri Amarnath Vidyalankar, Shri Ramananda Das, Shri Lalit Narayan Mishra, Shri A. Ibrahim, Shri Ram Dhani Das, Shri M. K. Shivananjappa, Shri C. R. Iyyunni, Shri Bheekha Bhai, Shri Piare Lall Kureel Talib, Choudhary Raghubir Singh, Shri Bulaqi Ram Varma, Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva, Shri Hira Vallabh Tripathi, Shri U. R. Bogawat, Shri Gulabshankar Amritlal Dholakia, Shri S. C. Deb, Shri M. Muthukrishnan, Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta, Shri I. Eacharan, Shri Sohan Lal Dhusiya, Shri N. C. Govindaswami Kachiroyar, Dr. Natabar Pandey, Shri R. Velayudhan, Shri Y. Gadilingana Gowd, Shri Nettur P. Damodaran, Shri P. T. Punnoose, Shri Mangalagiri Nanadas,

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Shri Sivamurthi Swami, Shri M. R. Krishna, Shri D. P. Karmarkar and Shri T. T. Krishnamachari with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next session."

The motion was adopted.

HINDU MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE BILL

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): I beg to move:

> "That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Council of States that the House do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to amend and codify the law relating to marriage and divorce among Hindus and resolves that the following Members of the House of the People be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely, Shri N. Keshavaiengar, Shri Gurmukh Singh, Musafir, Shri Ranbir Singh Chaudhuri, Shri S. V. Ramaswamy, Shri Narendra P. Nathwani, Shri Jayantrao Ganpat Natawadkar, Shri Fulsinhji B. Dabhi, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, Pandit Dwarka Nath Tiwary, Shrimati Anasuyabai Kale, Shri H. C. Heda, Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, Shri Suriya Prashad, Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri, Shri Nibaran Chandra Laskar, Shri T. Sanganna, Pandit Sheo Narayan Fotedar, Shri Paidi Lakshmayya, Shri Ram Sahai Tiwari, Shri Panna Lal, Shrimati Uma Nehru, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, Shri Bijoy Chandra Das, Shri Durga Charan Banerjee, Shri V. Veeraswamy, Her Highness Rajmata Kamalendu Mati Shah, Shri B. S. Murthy, Shri K. S. Raghavachari, Shri Nand. Lal Sharma and Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh."

The mover has been nominated by the other House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Of which he is a Member.

Shri Biswas: This is a simple motion soliciting the concurrence of the House to the recommendation of the Council of States for joining the Joint Select Committee, and also for nominating Members to serve on the Committee.

The House is well aware that this Bill is the first instalment of the lapsed Hindu Code Bill to which a reference was made by the President in his Address to both Houses of Parliament on the 16th May 1952. The House is also aware of the various stages through which the Hindu Code Bill passed without any definite result having been achieved.

In some form or other, the process of codifying parts of Hindu law or the whole of it has been before the legislature from the year 1939. Hindu law, as has been pointed out, is a spacious structure with many schools, and what the Rau Committee attempted was to evolve by a judicious selection and combination of the best elements in each of such schools a system which, while retaining the distinctive character of Hindu law, would satisfy the needs of progressive society.

Hindu society has never been static. In the old days, the task of codifying the law from time to time was performed for the people by successive lawgivers and commentators who, by a well thought out process of selection and exposition of the ancient texts, moulded the law to the needs of the times while appearing to make no change. Very often irreconcilable viewpoints were reconciled by them in conformity with the changed conditions, because Hindu law had to keep abreast of the times.

The old commentators are now gone and we have the Legislature and the courts of law instead. The latter cannot, obviously, perform the function of moulding the law, and it is, therefore, for the Legislature alone to study the changes which have taken place in society and to make or amend the laws accordingly.

Hon. Members are aware that the attempt to codify Hindu law began somewhere in 1939 and has gone on ever since. While codification was opposed by many as being impossible and as being fraught with grave danger to Hindu society, there were many others—reformers, if you choose to call them so—who wanted to march ahead in the light of the changes which had taken place. To them codification was in the best interests of the country and would tend to make the law certain and at the same time mark the progress that had taken place in Hindu society.

Hon. Members are well aware of the vicissitudes through which the Rau Committee Code has passed. From a Bill or Bills providing for better rights for women in property in 1939, the attempt to codify the Hindu law has passed from stage to stage, a complete picture of the Hindu Code being presented to the Legislature in 1947. This Bill was further revised by the Select Committee in 1948, and even after protracted discussions over a long period, all that could be done with the Bill was to get four of the preliminary clauses passed when the provisional Parliament was dissolved. Bitter opposition was then being voiced at every stage to the Code, both in Parliament and outside Parliament, and the opposition was based very often on imaginary and fantastic grounds. In view of the opposition and in view of the slow progress of the Bill, Government decided to split the Code into parts, so that its passage could be rendered smoother.

All this history is common knowledge, but I am repeating this for reasons which will be apparent in a few moments.

The Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill, as I have said, is the first instalment of the Hindu law, and deals with marriage and divorce as its name implies. The Bill was introduced in the Council of States in 1952 and now comes to this House with the motion that this House may also join in the Joint Select Committee which is to be appointed to consider the Bill and the opinions received thereon.

Many have criticised the long delay that has taken place and is taking place in the passage of these Bills and some have gone as far as to question the intentions of Government and all those who are sponsoring the Bills. To women, the delay has been a bitter cause for complaint. Those who know anything of Hindu women know that their lives are usually a round of duties, leaving them little chance to think about their rights. When, therefore, women ask for better rights, no one can wish to be anything but helpful. But, as they themselves must realise, the question, from the very nature of things, does not admit of a quick solution. As I have said, the remedy lies only in legislation, and if legislation is to succeed, it must be generally acceptable to the public. As the Rau Committee themselves observe, they set out with the object of producing a Code of Hindu law which would be—I am quoting their words—"acceptable to the general public". And you know what pains they took to ascertain public opinion and satisfy themselves on this point. So, if there is to be legislation, it is essential to carry the public or a large section of the public with you. It is, therefore, worth while spending some time and labour in order to get a good law which will be acceptable to the people. It is also essential that all sections of thought should be given a hearing if a good law is to be enacted. Judged from those standards and judging from the opinions which have now been collected on the Bill, I am extremely glad to say that the delay which has taken place, if it is delay, is fully justified. The bitter opposition voiced by the public from 1948 to 1951, as evidenced by the sheaves of telegrams which poured into the Secretariat from all quarters of India has now been replaced either by resolutions pressing for this speedy enactment of the Bill and complaining bitterly against the delay which has taken place or by

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well-intentioned criticisms of the Bill for the purpose of improving it. What does this change in the attitude of the people reveal? In my opinion, the propaganda which was then being carried on by certain sections giving the public a perverted picture of the Hindu Code has nearly died down. because the real objectives and aims of the Bill have now received sufficient publicity in all parts of India and there has been a general appreciation of the progressive character of the legislation. People have now begun to take a correct view of the provisions of the Bill and therefore rightly wish us to forge ahead taking due account of their comments and criticisms, all offered in a helpful spirit. With these I shall deal later on.

You will also find that a change has come over in the Legislature itself. Judging from the speeches delivered when the Hindu Code Bill was before the provisional Parliament, one would have thought that it would have been a well-nigh impossible task to get any part of the Hindu Code Bill through the Legislature. But the reception which this Bill had in the Council of States recently was entirely different. Such indeed was the general support it received that I am encouraged in fact to think that the old difficulties have vanished and that this first instalment of the Hindu Code will now be welcomed by the House as well as by the public in the same spirit in which it has been presented before them.

The present Bill is a somewhat simplified version of that part of the Rau Committee's Code which dealt with the subject of marriage and divorce. In preparing the draft of this legislation, I have had the advantage of having before me the original draft, the revised version of the Select Committee, the discussions which took place both in Parliament and at the informal conference held under the chairmanship of the then Law Minister in 1950, the discussions which took place at the conference in Trivandrum to consider the laws applicable to persons governed by the *marumakkattayam* and *aliyasantana* laws and the Government amendments which were pending before the provisional Parliament when that was dissolved. The earlier drafts proceeded on the footing that all laws relating to marriage and divorce applicable to Hindus should be contained in one enactment, and therefore dealt with both sacramental (or, as it was called *dharmic*) marriages and civil marriages. I felt, however, that civil marriages as such should be dealt with separately, in a law which should, as far as possible, be uniformly applicable to all the inhabitants of this country. With this end in view, I introduced in the Council of States in 1952 a Special Marriage Bill dealing with such marriages, and I am again happy to say that this Bill was welcomed by the country generally. A Joint Committee of both Houses subjected the Bill to a very critical examination and submitted a very valuable report, and though the Council of States made certain changes—of a somewhat drastic character in the Bill as reported on by the Joint Select Committee—the Bill was passed there on Saturday evening last. It will now come before this House. and the House will doubtless give it the fullest consideration which such an important measure demands. Hon. Members will understand, therefore, why the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill eliminates from it all provisions respecting civil marriages.

10 A.M.

I already gave a brief account in the Council of States of the other changes that have been made in the present Bill as compared with its earlier counterparts. and I should be wanting in courtesy to this House if I did not briefly touch upon the main changes here. The Bill will now apply to Hindus wherever they may be—whether in or outside India. The Bill will also give recognition to customs and usages where they differ from orthodox Hindu law. The House will recollect that a good deal of controversy took place on the question of recognition of customary forms of marriages and dissolution of marriages and generally of customs in vogue south of the Vindhyas. This Bill will give full recognition to all such customs. After all, 'custom', as defined in the Bill itself, means well-established customs which are not opposed to public policy, and there can be no objection to recognising such customs. In the Bill recognition is given to customary variations, both as regards the rule of *sapinda* relationship and the rule of prohibited degrees, as affecting the right to marry. Recognition is also given to customary forms of divorce or special forms of divorce available under special laws, like the laws of Malabar. The subject of void and viodable marriages has been dealt with a little more scientifically, and a few other minor improvements have also been carried out.

Apart from the main changes mentioned above, the subject-matter of the Bill may be broadly divided into three categories: firstly, the abolition of caste as a necessary requirement for a valid marriage; secondly, enforcement of monogamy; and thirdly, divorce or the dissolution of marriage on certain grounds.

The controversy relating to the abolition of caste restrictions for a valid marriage has not much force after the enactment of the Hindu Marriages Validity Act, 1949 (Act XXI of 1949). In this respect, I may add that if any member of the Hindu community wants to follow the orthodox system which requires that the bride and bridegroom should belong to the same *varna*, same caste, same sub-caste, etc., there is nothing in this Bill which can prevent him from giving effect to his wishes or to what he regards as his *dharma*. In the same way, if a Hindu who does not believe in caste or sub-caste, marries under this law, the law regards his marriage also as valid.

As far as the marriage law is concerned, there is no kind of imposition at all. As I stated in the other House, the provisions are only of a permissive or enabling nature, and do not impose any obligation whatsoever on the orthodox. Their only effect will be to give a growing body of Hindus, men and women, the liberty to live the lives which they wish to lead, without in any way infringing the similar liberty of those who prefer to adhere to the orthodox ways.

With respect to monogamy, there is general support to the view that all Hindu marriages should be monogamous. Polygamy was never encouraged in Hindu society, and the present Bill boldly seeks to recognise the fact that polygamy is not permissible under Hindu Law. Some persons—fortunately a small section of male Hindus—felt that to enforce monogamy by statute may drive people to forsake their religion for another religion which will permit them a plurality of wives. The fear is groundless. A woman member of the Hindu society, on the other hand, neatly countered it by saying that, if monogamy was not enforced, Hindu women might become Christians to secure the benefit of monogamy. There is no evidence, in any monogamous society, to show that people change their faith only for enjoying the doubtful benefits of polygamy, nor can one believe that the desire to have a multiplicity of wives is so strongly embedded in the heart of every Hindu that he will forsake his religion, his law, etc., and embrace another religion simply to fulfil that desire. Even the dissenting member of the Rau Committee merely expressed the opinion that it is not necessary to make monogamy a rule of law, as for economic reasons the vast majority of Hindus are monogamous. If that be so, I say, translate what is a rule of practice into a rule of law, and do justice to the mothers of the race.

Divorce has always existed in Hindu Law and was known to large sections

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of the community. Although marriage is regarded as a sacrament, cases have occurred where marriages had to be declared null and void for certain reasons, *e.g.* in a recent case before the Bombay High Court, a marriage was declared void because one of the parties thereto was impotent. If marriage is a sacrament and is binding, then there can be no method by which dissolution of such a marriage can be obtained. The Bombay decision is only one example of such a case where relief had to be given to the parties in view of the difficult situation in which they found themselves. In the same manner, there are many hard cases where relief in the shape of judicial separation of divorce is necessary. I need not, however, labour these points because these provisions have been generally welcomed. And, in fact, the Governments of Bombay, Saurashtra and Madras have, long ago, stolen a march on us.

There are some other features of this Bill to which I need not refer at this stage. Many of them have been fully explained in the Notes on Clauses which have been appended to the Bill. The Bill has been widely circulated and Part B States, who had no opportunity of considering it before, have now had a full opportunity of doing so. My hon. friend Mr. Nand Lal Sharma is not here. I find he has tabled a motion that the Bill should be circulated. If that is the measure of the great interest he is taking in this piece of social legislation, I can only express my sorrow and disappointment. The Bill was circulated and opinions were received. Of the 27 State Governments who were consulted, 15 are generally in favour, 8 have not expressed any opinion either way, 2 are for prevention of polygamy but do not favour divorce and only 2 are of the opinion that the time is not ripe for legislation.

An Hon. Member: Which are these two States?

Shri Biswas: I will give the names of these States.

In the first category, States which are generally in favour—fifteen of them—are Bombay, Madras, Orissa, Punjab, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Hyderabad, Saurashtra, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Himachal Pradesh, Vindhya Pradesh, Tripura, Coorg and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The second category consists of eight States which have not expressed any opinion either way. They are, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, PEPSU, Delhi, Cutch, Bhopal, Bilaspur and Manipur.

The two who are for prevention of polygamy but do not favour divorce are U.P. and Bihar.

And, the remaining two who are of the opinion that the time is not yet ripe for such legislation are Assam and Ajmer.

Sir, by a motion voted on the 16th March, 1954, the Council of States has referred the Bill to a Joint Select Committee with instructions to report on or before the last day of the second week of the next session and has recommended that the House of the People do join the Joint Committee and nominate its Members.

The opinions, so far expressed, as I have said before, are generally in support of the Bill. Some of the more important suggestions on the Bill are as follow:—

(1) There is no need for *sapinda* relationship and degrees of prohibited relationship being separately defined. One set of prohibited degrees should be sufficient.

(2) The list of *sapinda* relations should be extended to five degrees on the maternal side and seven degrees on the paternal side instead of three and five degrees as envisaged in the Bill.

(3) The age of marriage both for the bride and the bridegroom in clause 5 should be raised. The suggestions vary from person to person.

(4) Where the bride has not completed the age of 18, the consent of the guardian to the marriage should be necessary.

(5) Adultery should be made a ground for divorce and not merely for judicial separation.

(6) Provision should be made for a person to take a second wife in certain circumstances with the consent of the first wife, if necessary.

(7) The grounds for divorce should be further enlarged.

(8) Decrees of dissolution of marriages should be subject to confirmation by the High Court.

(9) Parties should be enabled to remarry at any time after dissolution of a previous marriage and should not have to wait for any specified period for that purpose.

(10) The interests of children should be sufficiently safeguarded whenever a marriage is declared null and void or dissolved.

These are only some of the suggestions which have been made and the list is not exhaustive. Many other suggestions have also been made, one of which is by the Government of Madras. And, it is that persons governed by the special systems of law in Malabar, the *marumakkathayam* and the *aliyasanthana* laws should be brought within the scope of this measure by including suitable amendments for the purpose, while, at the same time, preserving for them their special laws.

The Indian Association of Leprologists have also suggested that leprosy should not be a ground for dissolution of marriages. These and other suggestions will doubtless receive the careful consideration of the Joint Select Committee. But, what is really important to observe is that the Joint Committee can now proceed to its labours in the happy thought that a large majority of the public is behind the Bill.

Sir, as the Bill will be fully examined by the Joint Committee and will eventually come to this House for detailed consideration at the proper stage, I do not think I need take any more time of this House in making this simple motion for concurrence in the recommendation of the Council of States for joining the Select Committee and for nominating the quota of this House to that committee. I move.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What has the hon. Minister to say regarding the motion of Shri Nand Lal Sharma that the Bill be circulated? Has it been done already?

Shri Biswas: The Bill was circulated by a motion of this House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: By this House?

Shri Biswas: By the Council of States, by a motion on the 20th December, 1952, and the opinions are here. They have already been circulated to the Members of this House.

Pandit K. C. Sharma (Meerut Distt.—South): It has been duly circulated.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am placing this motion formally before the House.

Motion moved:

> "That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Council of States that the House do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to amend and codify the law relating to marriage and divorce among Hindus and resolves that the following Members of the House of the People be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely, Shri N. Keshavaiengar, Shri Gurmukh Singh Musafir,

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Shri Ranbir Singh Chaudhuri, Shri S. V. Ramaswamy, Shri Narendra P. Nathwani, Shri Jayantrao Ganpat Natawadkar, Shri Fulsinhji B. Dabhi, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, Pandit Dwarka Nath Tiwary, Shrimati Anasuyabai Kale, Shri H. C. Heda, Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, Shri Suriya Prashad, Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri, Shri Nibaran Chandra Laskar, Shri T. Sanganna, Pandit Sheo Narayan Fotedar, Shri Paidi Lakshmayya, Shri Ram Sahai Tiwari, Shri Panna Lal, Shrimati Uma Nehru, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, Shri Bijoy Chandra Das, Shri Durga Charan Banerjee, Shri V. Veeraswamy, Her Highness Rajmata Kamlendu Mati Shah, Shri B. S. Murthy, Shri K. S. Raghavachari, Shri Nand Lal Sharma and Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh."

There is an amendment in the name of Shri Nand Lal Sharma. This has been circulated. Therefore, it would not be allowed. I would like to hear him.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma (Sikar): It has not been sufficiently circulated, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the quantum of sufficiency?

Shri Nand Lal Sharma: The opposition to the notorious Hindu Code Bill has been there for ten years. This has not been sufficiently circulated and the public does not know it at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid the same thing can be said about this. The very fact that it has been before the country for a long number of years shows that it has been circulated. It has been circulated by the other House. I feel I am unable to allow this amendment. The circulation by the other House is the same as circulation by this House. There is nothing to be gained by further circulation. It is a dilatory motion and I am not going to allow it.

The House will now proceed with the discussion of this motion by the hon. Minister

Shri Raghubir Sahai (Etah Distt. —North East *cum* Budaun Distt.—East): I want to make one suggestion, namely, that copies may be supplied to us by tomorrow morning of the hon. Law Minister's speech that has been just now delivered as I consider that it is a very important piece of document.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall consider it.

श्री विभूति मिश्र (सारन व चम्पारन): म पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह बिल जो सर्कुलेट किया गया है वह अंगरेज़ी भाषा में सर्कुलेट किया गया है या कि दूसरी भाषाओं में भी । इस बिल का असर जिन लोगों पर पड़ेगा वह हिन्दी और दूसरी विभिन्न प्रान्तीय भाषायें ही जानते हैं । तो यह हर प्रान्त की प्रान्तीय भाषाओं में भी सर्कुलेट किया गया है या नहीं ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Law Minister any information as to whether in the local languages and in Hindi this Bill has been circulated for public opinion?

Shri Biswas: Bills are sent to the State Governments and I have no information as to what the State Governments do. On a previous occasion, I know these draft codes had been drawn up in the different languages. What has been done in the present case I am not in a position to state.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma: I submit that the Bill has not been sufficiently circulated and the public does not know about it at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have disallowed his motion already. I will call upon Shrimati Jayashri. Whoever is on the Select Committee will not be called. I therefore request the members of the Select Committee not to rise and try to catch my eye.

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): The names of the members of the Select Committee might be read once more.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are the hon. Members on the Select Committee. I presume they have already consented. It is even now not too late for them to get out of the Select Committee and I have no objection to calling them, but even so they cannot be sure that they will be called. These are the names of the members of the Select Committee.

Shri N. Keshavaiengar, Shri Gurmukh Singh Musafir, Shri Ranbir Singh Chaudhuri, Shri S. V. Ramaswamy, Shri Narendra P. Nathwani, Shri Jayantrao Ganpat Natawadkar, Shri Fulsinhji B. Dabhi, Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha, Pandit Dwarka Nath Tiwary, Shrimati Anasuyabai Kale, Shri H. C. Heda, Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, Shri Suriya Prashad, Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri, Shri Nibaran Chandra Laskar, Shri T. Sanganna, Pandit Sheo Narayan Fotedar, Shri Paidi Lakshmayya, Shri Ram Sahai Tiwari, Shri Panna Lal, Shrimati Uma Nehru, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, Shri Bijoy Chandra Das, Shri Durga Charan Banerjee, Shri V. Veeraswamy, Her Highness Rajmata Kamlendu Mati Shah, Shri B. S. Murthy, Shri K. S. Raghavachari, Shri Nand Lal Sharma and Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh.

I hope Shrimati Jayashri's name is not in this list.

Shrimati Jayashri (Bombay—suburban): I rise to support the Bill, for which, I should say, the women in India have been waiting since so many long years.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is marriage a one-sided affair?

Shrimati Jayashri: There are so many women's associations in India who have been protesting against the delay that has been made in bringing this legislation before the House. I will read out a small portion of their resolution:

> "The existing Hindu Law regarding marriage and succession, under which women suffer many disabilities, constitutes a contravention of the Constitution. The pending Bills on the Hindu Code have gone through various legislative processes since 1944 and have yet to be placed on the statute book."

So, there is no argument for saying that the Bill was not circulated for public opinion. It has been before the country since nearly ten years now. I am sorry to find that the Government, who had brought forward the Special Marriage Bill and who have tried to see through this legislation as passed in the Council of States, should have not foreseen their way to bring this Bill before the Special Marriage Bill. That legislation is also important, but we had already the 1872 Act, under which our people would have taken advantage of that Bill, while the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill was part of the Hindu Code Bill. I should say that when our Government made the proclamation that they will either fall or stay with Hindu Code Bill, we all expected that this measure, which is a part of the Hindu Code Bill, would have got priority. The Government have taken a very long time to bring this legislation on the statute book. The Marriage and Divorce Bill is a part of the Hindu Code Bill, which was before the public since the last ten years. The Hindu Code Bill was circulated for public opinion, was sent twice before the Select Committee and ultimately

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discussed in the Provisional Parliament. That part dealing with marriage and divorce has also been before the public for the last ten years, and yet the Government again took so much time in circulating it for public opinion. Further, it will go before the Joint Select Committee and more time will be wasted on this important measure. There is no end to these dilatory tactics on the part of some of those who do not relish the changes that are necessary in our one-sided marriage laws. As I said in the last general elections, women have supported a large number of Members of both Houses of Parliament on the definite understanding that they will help in passing the Hindu Code Bill. The next elections are not very far away, and I take this opportunity to warn my friends here that the women in this country are alert and they will see that only those Members are sent to this House who are going to support this measure.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shrimati Jayashri: Hindu society has withstood many shocks and upheavals, and if the ancient ideal of married life has solid advantages to recommend it, it will continue to be appreciated and practised by the large majority of Hindus. The Hindu Law is, and has always been, dynamic and not static, and it has promoted and not hindered progress. Change is the essence of life and this thing can be done by taking into consideration the needs of the changing times. Hindu marriage today is not an equal partnership based on mutual rights. The one-sided law of marriage, women ignorant of their rights and the evil customs that have grown round the institution of marriage, threaten to destroy its very foundation. With the increasing consciousness of women, with her desire to achieve equality, it has become necessary to put marriage on a more rational basis if it is to be saved from collapse. It is obviously difficult to judge the exact measure of married happiness in any society, and especially as the human being is capable of extracting some happiness of life under the most unjust social order. That is no justification for saying that all marriages are happy and there is no necessity for any law to make the partners in a marriage suitable to each other in their married life. On account of their social and religious traditions our people try their best to adjust themselves to conditions whatever they may be even at the risk of self-repression. Marriage is what it should be, namely, a harmonious co-operation of two lives, capable of contributing to the enrichment of family and society.

Now, Sir, coming to the various clauses of this Bill, I would like to appeal to the Law Minister to include some provision by which the dowry system which is ruining our society can be checked. In the Hindu Code Bill there is a clause as follows:—

> "In the case of any marriage solemnised after the commencement of this Code any dowry, even on the occasion, or as a condition, of or consideration for such marriage shall be deemed to be the property of the women whose marriage has been so solemnised.
>
> Where any dowry is received by any person other than the woman whose marriage has been so solemnised as aforesaid, such person shall hold it in trust for the benefit of the woman and shall transfer it to her after her completing the age of eighteen years, or if she dies before completing that age, to her heirs specified."

I suggest that we should include some safegaurd like this to restrain persons demanding exorbitant dowries. The dowry system is growing even in educated societies. Bridegrooms are asking exorbitant prices. Only the other day we read in the papers of a case where the bride-groom's party after the betrothal where the girl's parents would have spent about Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000, wanted a large amount of money, and on the inability of the girl's parents to oblige them, went away without taking the bride. Such cases are occurring frequently. This dowry system, I am told, has spread to other religions also, like Parsis, and Christians. I suggest that we should include this in the essentials of Hindu marriage.

Then I come to clause 9, restitution of conjugal rights. The women's sub-committee of the National Planning Committee appointed by the Congress suggested:

> "We find that the provision for the restitution of conjugal rights still exists in Hindu and Mohammadan law. We feel that in any society that lays claim to any form of refinement or culture a remedy of this character should be excluded from the Statute Book."

If we want to make provision, we could have said that desertion can be made a ground for judicial separation without bringing in this conjugal rights, because as I said, in a civilised society this sort of measure should be done away with.

Then, in clause 10, relating to judicial separation, I would like to add unnatural offence. It may be unsafe for one of the parties to live with the other. This is very important because we find so many rape cases, and other unnatural offences committed.

In clause 12, among the grounds on which a marriage can be decreed as invalid, for the girl I would like to add: "if she is an *akanya*". Recently, there was a case in Bombay, an extract of which I would like to read:

> "The society marriage which took place in Bombay, according to Hindu rights two years ago was declared to be null and void by Mr. Justice Tendolkar at the Bombay High Court today on the ground that the bride was an *akanya*, not a complete woman."

Shri Biswas: Is it same as frigidity?

Shrimati Jayashri: They have used the word *'akanya'*.

I shall read out from the press report I have:

> "His Lordship said 'that if the plaintiff husband was not entitled to a declaration of nullity, I would have had no hesitation in granting him a decree for divorce under the provisions of the Bombay Hindu Divorce Act.
>
> The husband, a youth of 24, was married to a 18 year old girl defendant, in the city in May, 1950, according to Hindu rites and custom....
>
> The plaintiff alleged that his wife was an 'Akanya' etc., etc."

Shri Biswas: "Akanya" literally should mean one who is not a girl.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): Does "Akanya" mean a non-virgin?

Shrimati Jayashri: In clause 13, relating to petition for decree of divorce, in place of sub-clause (1) which reads :

> "that the husband is keeping a concubine or the wife has become the concubine of any other man or leads the life of a prostitute;"

I would suggest "frequent acts of adultery during the period of six months or one year of marriage."

[Shrimati Jayashri]

whatever the Law Minister may think proper. This is very difficult because very few people will nowadays encourage concubines though they may be leading a life of adultery. Women also will not be like prostitutes though they may not be chaste. Instead of this clause, I would suggest some such change "frequent acts of adultery" should be substituted here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How many would be the limit?

Shrimati Jayashri: I leave that to the Select Committee. They may decide this. I would suggest that some such change should be made in this clause.

I would like to refer to clause 9 which deals with restitution of conjugal rights. I would like the Select Committee to consider and provide for cases where there is a desertion for a period of two years or three years.

Then there is clause 23 (c) which deals with a petition not presented or prosecuted in collusion with the respondent. Some of the women's associations have suggested that there are very rare cases in which there is really no collusion and that people had to tell lies. I would suggest that it is not necessary to have this (c) in clause 23.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is left to the court to find out if there is collusion in which case the court will reject the petition.

Shrimati Jayashri: I would suggest that it is not necessary to have that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Otherwise even if there is collusion, the court cannot throw out the petition.

Shrimati Jayashri: People have to tell lies because this clause is there. Really speaking, it is with the consent of both parties that most divorce cases come before the courts and if you keep this clause. . . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will make divorce very easy. (*Interruptions*)

Shrimati Jayashri: I want our society to proceed gradually and not very fast in making divorce easy. We have in Bombay this Divorce Act. Very few cases come before the courts. It is not so very easy. The women would not leave their homes and rush to the courts for taking resort to divorce. I have got some figures.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Member considered the possibility of the man taking advantage of it more than the woman? The hon. Member's approach to this problem is from the woman's point of view.

Shrimati Jayashri: I am speaking from both man and woman's point of view because both men and women would not rush. Especially the ordinary woman would not do so because they have to depend on man for her maintenance and she will think twice before rushing. It may be that men might like to go to courts but there also I would say that the clause on alimony will prevent them from rushing to the courts.

I wanted to say that we have already got an Anti-Bigamous Marriage Act in Bombay. Dr. Ambedkar once reported in this House that nearly 2,000 marriages were performed in contravention of the Anti-Bigamous Hindu Marriage Act in Bombay State in the first few months of the passing of that Act but formerly frequent cases used to occur. Very few cases went to the court. Similarly, I would say that in regard to divorce also, people are not going to rush to the court. We had these Divorce Acts in Baroda State and in Mysore State also but so far we have not seen that our society is ruined or that our religion is in danger. I would therefore appeal to the Members here that our marriage laws which are one-sided at present and which are doing injustice to women should be reformed and brought in accord with our Constitution which wants to do justice to both the sexes. So, I support this Bill.

Shri Biswas: I have got to place the matter before the Joint Select Committee and so I should like to understand whether it is her contention that divorce should be allowed even by collusion. Is that all she wants? I want to be clear about it so that I can place the matter before the Select Committee.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even if the court comes to the conclusion and find out the truth that there is a collusive application for divorce, is it the contention of the hon. Member that that collusive application should be allowed by the court?

Shrimati Jayashri: I do not see any harm in it because....

Shri Biswas: I do not want any arguments. Is that all her intention?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Hon. Member does not see any harm in it. The hon. Member was saying that there ought to be no difference or discrimination between man and woman and she is also in favour of monogamy. Would it prevent ill-treatment of the woman? A man cannot marry another woman and a woman cannot marry another man. Is it necessary to include such a provision for divorce immediately along with monogamy in view of what she said regarding the working of the Bombay Act that very few cases had come before the courts?

Shrimati Jayashri: I would say that even if there is one case it is doing justice to the party who is suffering and leading a miserable life. Law must give justice even if one is in a minority.

Shri Khardekar (Kolhapur *cum* Satara): I congratulate the Law Minister for bringing in this Bill at last—better late than never. Our Government is notorious and has very often been guilty of undue hurry in bringing about unwanted and monstrous legislation. It has also been guilty of inordinate delay in bringing about laws, good and necessary. I congratulate Shri Biswas for bringing in this measure—(*An Hon. Member:* Say the Law Minister) No, Shri Biswas, because he as an individual is likely to live in history, perhaps otherwise he might not have been born in history.

A reformer has to have plenty of courage and strength. A weak government is worse than useless. I have been wondering as to why this delay has been caused, a delay of nine or ten years, particularly when this Government has an overwhelming majority, almost a brute majority.

I think this particular reform in Hindu law has two kinds of enemies, external and internal: External enemies like, you might call, the Ram Rajya Parishad and so on, this Government has never bothered about and is not bothered about. It is the internal enemies that have checked the progress of any reform in Hindu society.

Having listened carefully to the debates on Seth Govind Das' Bill for the Preservation of Cattle and the Special Marriage Bill, it is my considered opinion that some, if not all, of those who are masquerading as Congressmen are worse reactionaries than even the Sanatanists. (*Interruption*). I said 'some'. (*Shri U. M. Trivedi:* Why not all?)

It is said that public opinion is against this measure. I really do not know, unless it is public opinion as has been gathered by the young Raja of Bilaspur. As far as 80 per cent. of the Hindu population is concerned, this Bill has nothing to do with it; they are actually more progressive.

[Shri Khardekar]

So far as the simple, healthy, unsophisticated villagers are concerned, a girl just asks for divorce or walks out. Independent leaders in that community support her, and that is all. We know that out of the remaining twenty per cent., women, as Shrimati Jayashri has said, have all along been for this particular Bill, and progressive gentlemanly opinion, I believe, has been backing it.

I am reminded of what Burke wrote—I am not able to quote the exact words—that where on a common huge animals are grazing or ruminating, there may be a few crickets making plenty of noise, but one must not be swayed by this noise which is more a noise of insignificance. I am very proud of my State, the State of Bombay for having introduced these reforms long ago. And I do not think even the doughtiest champions of Hindu religion would say that Bombay is not a moral State. The kingdom of Morarji is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, a first-class moral State. Now, we hear the cry that Hindu religion is in danger, that Hindu culture is going to dogs. I want to know whether Hindu religion or Hindu culture is so fragile or weak as to suffer from any reform that is likely to be introduced.

But looking at this dispassionately and objectively I want to know where the danger lies. As has been said by the Law Minister and as one can see by looking at it, the Bill is purely permissive and entirely of an enabling nature. Those who wish to remain orthodox are at perfect liberty to do so. Then what is the objection? The objection that is raised or that is in the minds of the people, I think, is that this may in some way put an end to caste system, that a low caste person will, if he wishes, is able to marry a member of the higher caste. They are afraid of this pollution, and that is where, I think, the poison can be seen.

Nobody forces anybody to divorce. And the point very often has been brought forth that social reform should not be introduced by law. But where the malady or the disease is so rampant I think it is very necessary that laws must take those reforms in hand. I would have gone a little further and suggested that we should have inter-caste marriages. It would be very radical and almost revolutionary but at the same time it is necessary that all of us who belong to the higher caste should see that in each family there is at least one compulsory marriage from the lower class. That is the only way in which untouchability and the devil of caste system could be put an end to in a short time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is already being practised.

Shri Khardekar: So Hindu religion means according to these conventional few, the perpetuating of the caste system, the evil of untouchability and the slavery of women. You know that there are two kinds of tyranny which have enslaved mankind, the tyranny of the kings and the tyranny of the priests. Fortunately we have got rid of our rulers, and the few princes that were there have also been liquidated duly. But the tyranny of the priests still continues to dominate the Indian mind. Though superstition and the rest of it, the Indian mind is still under the grip of this tyranny. This tyranny or enslavement of the mind is worse than the enslavement of the body and therefore we have got to get rid of this particular domination. I may very rudely say, this beastly priestly order of Hindu religion has got to go. I say 'beastly' because it has created and perpetuated the caste system, it has continued the stigma of untouchability, it has given inhuman treatment to women. You can see the high caste women when they become widows even at an early age, the way they are treated, in the most crude, inhuman, unjust manner, the head shaved off and so on. This particular priestly order has tortured saints in the past. We have the examples of

Saint Tukkaram and Saint Daneshwar. I may not be wrong if I suggest that this led even to the murder of Gandhiji. Refer to the slogans that were raised recently in the Hindu Mahasabha session.

Coming to certain fundamental points, we have to accept this view that old order changeth, yielding place to new. Society is not static. It cannot be. It is dynamic. And so must law be. There are some who want to live in the past. It is like trying to make mummies live. The past cannot be re-created and lived. It is not desirable, it is not possible. We have to re-create and re-shape the past in the light of the present, looking to the surrounding circumstances, with an eye to the future. All that is good in the past should be followed. But it should have a firm foundation too. An old building five thousand years old cannot be good for human habitation now. It may be dangerous. Nor is it convenient to live in it. Similarly with regard to our social and legal structure. I may illustrate this by one very famous example from literature. In England, there was a time when Shaw was becoming popular. There were a few young men who declared that Shaw was perhaps better even than Shakespeare. Some people went to Shaw and asked him his opinion. Shaw said, yes. Oh yes; Shaw is of course better than Shakespeare. How? Because Shaw is taller than Shakespeare. Why? Because Shaw stands on the shoulders of Shakespeare, meaning thereby that to the knowledge that Shakespeare had of the 16th century, Shaw added the knowledge of the next three centuries and he could feel sure of seeing a little further. We have the advantage of the past and if we make use of that advantage, we could have a much better idea of the present and the possibilities of the future.

There is no doubt that our *Rishis* were great men. They were prophets. But, is it possible that whatever they laid down is for all eternity? A *rishi* is after all a human being, and perhaps the best among us. Infallibility is only in the nature of the gods. It is human to err. I may give one example. I do not think that many would doubt the statement that persons like Gandhiji or Vinobha have something of a *Rishi* in them. We know that Gandhiji was very dogmatic and considered that whatever he said was true. In ninety nine cases out of 100, that came true. When in the hundredth case, he found that he had committed a mistake, he had the goodness and greatness to admit his mistake and sometimes the mistake of a great man, he admitted, was Himalayan. If we had the advantage of having in our midst Manu and other law givers, we would have also known from them how they would endorse or correct their rulings in the light of the present circumstances. I think these ancient *rishis* must be laughing at us when we merely parrot them or say that whatever they laid down is true for eternity or has the stamp of eternity. It is wrong to take the *rishis* as a sort of text books and not to have any possible change in them.

Here, I would refer to a very remarkable remark made by Shri Tandon when he gave the most rational exposition of the *Kumbh Mela* tragedy. He said,—I am quoting from memory—that the greatest *rishi* is intelligence, reason, and that has always to guide us; we should not be blind followers. The 20th century is an age of interrogation. It is right and proper for us every time to ask questions. Because, to ask proper questions is more than half knowledge. It is the way towards wisdom. The glory of the Hindu religion lies in its being dynamic. It is the one religion,—I am proud of belonging to it and I think most or all of us are—which does not depend on any text, which does not follow any particular prophet because no prophet has given us the religion as such. It is the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of ages and as such it goes on increasing, developing and growing. Therefore, those who are the champions of Hinduism in the most fanatical way, as to make it go into a rut, as to make it be atrophied or dead, are

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the worst enemies of Hinduism. I shall give one example. Marriages are supposed to be made in heaven. I do not know if heaven had no other business than match making in this world. It is said, once a marriage, always a marriage, no divorce, and so on. Take the case of pilot Monsieur Robert Covell who was transformed into Mademoiselle Roberta Covell. What would happen? If there is not to be divorce, the husband and wife would be of the same sex. It would be a very awful thing. This kind of dogmatically sticking to the old laws is not particularly happy. What I think is that in spite of the fact that very intelligent people are of the *sanatanist* type, most of them have spirituality on their lips and materialism in their heart.

11 A.M.

Then, I come to the most important part of the Bill: the general effect that this Bill would have. It will definitely lead, if certain other things are done, for the economic independence of women. This Bill will lead to the emancipation of women. Women have been regarded here in certain backward areas as though they were property, as though they were chattel or even cattle. I do not want to hurt anybody's religious feeling. The cow is as dear to me as to anybody else. Cow is a good animal. There are some who are very anxious for the protection of the cow; but they do not bother about women. They will consider the cow as the mother; but the real mother, the natural mother, they will consider as though she were a slave. This is unfortunate. Our Constitution has given political rights to women. In the preamble, we also find that the Constitution aims at introducing social and economic justice. This Bill does give a social right. But, I think unless women are given rights to property, unless as in the case of the Scheduled Castes, certain reservations are made for them in the services, services which they can render, they cannot have any independence as individuals. If half of humanity is not well developed individually and so on, the nation cannot go on. Respect for women is the true measure of civilisation; *Yatra naryastu poojyante ramante thatra devatah;* and so on. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. I may add that the sweetest hand that shapes the child is the hand of the mother.

Then, I come to divorce. I may have too progressive ideas; but I hope you will listen to me with patience. It is a contract for the better or worse, if we take the European system of marriage. Even there, even among the Catholics, divorce is allowed, not granted by the courts, but by the Pope in certain rare cases.

Kumari Annie Mascarene (Trivandrum): No divorce; only separation.

Shri Khardekar: The names might differ, the essentials remaining the same. We say, marriage is a sacrament. I think the responsibility of an individual is greater the moment grace and spirituality disappear. If you look at marriage spiritually, I think the moment that I do not want my wife to be my wife and the moment she feels that she does not want me to be her husband, then, to continue that relationship is a relationship of sin. Then, there are many people who raise the question, what about children? I think an unhappy household is the worst nursery for children. Imagine a father and mother quarrelling and using abusive language and making all sorts of monstrous allegations; is that a proper education for a child? For example, imagine a wild pig fighting with a cat in a jungle; naturally the flowers are crushed. If the human pig fights with the female cat, the children not only get a distorted personality, but they are likely to be crushed, because children are the best human flowers imaginable. I go to the extent of saying that where divorce is concerned, do not ask why. If you ask why, if you want reasons, if certain details have to be satisfied, lawyers, police and law courts all these come in and I think we have had enough discussion to show that justice is perhaps not properly done. The reason is this. Take practical cases. Take the question of adultery. Now, normally, would a wife, a woman, be able to prove this against the husband, with no means, little money, with no friends, unless she is a woman of notoriously loose character, helped by a number of goondas? I do not think a decent woman, were she to rely on this ground for divorce, would be able to get a divorce, whereas, in the case of a man with means, with friends, with lawyers to help him to concoct stories, to fabricate evidence and with the police, or people anxious to oblige them, we do not know the fate of the woman.

Then again, in the divorce proceedings when certain charges are made against one party or the other, they are a very ugly thing, they are obscene, and they are almost a profanation. Particularly, imagine a divorce suit going on between mother and father, and the children studying in colleges and so on, all this dirty family linen being washed in the law courts and some of the papers glorying in highlighting all these proceedings—imagine the result on the children, the coarsening result that it will have. So, if two people do not want to live together as husband and wife, let them separate, and there is no reason why you should not allow them to separate, because, continuing in an unhappy manner I do not think serves any purpose.

I want to say a few words about bigamy, monogamy, polygamy, polyandry and the rest of it. Here I want to say that no moral fetish should be made about it. One man, one woman or one woman, one man is a good rule, but it is a matter more of convenience. It is based on the assumption that the number of the sexes—males and females—is approximately the same. Imagine a war breaking out and half the men being killed. We may have to resort to some sort of custom—I do not mean law—that it would be better for one to marry two, and I think the Pandavas did quite well. Five of them loved Draupadi, and what is more, they loved each other as brothers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is pleading for the other one.

Shri Khardekar: I come to that. I want you to understand the human mind. You know, Sir:

> "Age does not wither her charm
> Nor custom stale her infinite variety.
> Kings and Caesars bowed down to her."

If a question were to be asked of hon. Members: "Would you have one-thousandth part of a Cleopatra or the complete monopoly of a very ordinary person?" I say in all seriousness, it is very difficult to decide—or, if a progressive woman were asked: "Would you have one-tenth or one-hundredth share of a Don Juan or a complete monopoly of a weedy weakling?". Now, the main function of the woman is to perpetuate the species and therefore she is interested in having the best possible children.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Member is just overstepping the mark.

Shri Khardekar: The main function of the woman is that she is Nature's chief functionary for perpetuating the species. A woman would prefer a one-thousandth part of a first rate man than a weedy, weakling person as a husband, because it is entirely for the perpetuation of the species in the most healthy manner.

Then, I come to some of the amendments that I have sent only this morning. As I said, adultery or such conditions should be done away with, because it would be impossible for the woman to prove this. It would be easier for the man. Then again, dirty linen should not be washed in the open, and I would have told the story from the Bible had not my learned friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava stolen a march over me, because he told that particular story about adultery.

[Shri Khardekar]

Now, we find there is a clause in the Bill that if one of the parties is an idiot or of unsound mind, it can lead to severance of the marriage or separation and so on. This is rather strange. Many of us are idiots. The dictionary meaning of the word "idiot" is certain deficiency in mind and lack of reason. How would you certify any husband to be an idiot? I do not know. Personally, I want to ask who is an idiot? An idiot is one whose reason is being rather conquered and subordinated by his emotion and who for a time loses his intellectual balance. Again, I would say that women as a rule would love idiots, because no self-respecting woman would like her husband to be more intelligent, more clever than her and so on. Because, a woman likes to mother and smother the husband, because she has always that feeling of superiority.

Then, I have one or two other suggestions to make. Venereal disease has been stated as one of the grounds. First of all, we are living in a scientific age, and venereal disease is something that can be completely cured. That is the expert opinion, but the other thing is we seem to have that moral sort of feeling and we do not seem to get over it. There can be persons suffering from venereal disease in spite of the fact that they are entirely innocent. The infection may be caused without their having done any mischief whatsoever. It may have been caused through drinking from a glass which has been used by some syphilitic person suffering in the worse possible manner, or by using the clothes used by a patient suffering from these diseases. Therefore, my suggestion is that this should not be a ground for divorce or separation.

Then, we hear that three years after marriage are to elapse before you can send a petition. This way, four or five years will probably elapse before one can get separation and get remarried. When feelings are against each other and they are not likely to live as husband and wife, although they may be forced to live in the same house, this sort of enforced celibacy is a very great danger to society, and therefore, my submission is that some of these clauses may be looked into and removed or suitably altered.

On the whole, as I said, I accept this particular measure. I do not think it in any way goes against the spirit of Hindu religion or Hindu culture. Take my own case to see what Hindu religion has done for me. It has given peace to me. It has brought about harmony, and it has introduced a sense of justice. Apart from that, if Hindu culture has a distinct meaning, it looks to certain higher values, we look more to spiritual matters and lay less emphasis on material things. Looking at this Bill, I do not know in what way it comes in the way of your religion or your spiritual values.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): I think this Bill makes a happy marriage between reform and mild orthodoxy. It is a liberal measure, and I must say that most of its provisions are based on a spirit of moderation, on a spirit of compromise.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may continue later, another time.

PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up the discussion on peaceful uses of atomic energy. The time allowed for the entire discussion is two hours. How much time will the hon. Prime Minister take?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shi Jawaharlal Nehru): Certainly not more than half an hour: possibly less.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What about the hon. Member, Shri Saha?

Shri Meghnad Saha (Calcutta—North-West): Half an hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, for the other Members, there is an hour. I will allow ten minutes to each of them. Of course, only those who have already sent me chits will be called. I have got a list of them.

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya) *rose* —

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): He may also be allowed to speak.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Have you sent a chit?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not yet sent one.

Mr Deputy-Speaker: You may send one.

Shri Meghnad Saha: I have ventured to raise this debate in the hope that the representatives of the people who guide the destinies of our nation may take a more braver and enduring interest in the development of atomic energy in this country, for, its peaceful application, if properly done, is going to change human life very profoundly. What is atomic energy? Atomic energy is a kind of new fire. It will give us energy in a way which is very different from the older forms of energy. It will give us a source of inexhaustible energy which can be transported to any locality, deserts, mountains, oceans, not excepted, and it can transform human life. It can, if properly applied, revolutionise the arts sciences and industry, and it will cause as great a revolution in human life as the discovery of fire nearly six thousand years ago which raised mankind above the animal level. But at the present time, we are not very much aware of the beneficial aspects of the utilization of atomic energy. We think more or less about its evil effects. The two atom bombs which were dropped on the two Japanese cities nearly nine years ago have produced unfortunately a great tension in the international life. This tension is growing daily. We know that this tension is due to the atomic armament race on the part of the great powers of the world. The United States of America which was the first in the field had developed since 1942 an extensive and elaborate atomic energy programme. They cost nearly two billion dollars annually. It is a little more than the whole budget of India and the States combined, and it amounts to about two per cent of their national budget. The USSR started late, but their development since 1948 on atomic energy, and programme, the details of which are not very much known, is supposed to vie in dimension with the American programme. Unfortunately, this stock-piling of fissile material has produced very great unrest in the world. There was about 200 years ago a great King, Louis XIV. He got a new gun manufactured, which was better than those existing those days. Then he inscribed on the new gun the words, "logic of peace." With that logic, he tried to bring into subservience the other countries of the world. We know what was the effect. The same kind of atomic laws are being applied by certain nations of the world now to coerce the less fortunate nations into subservience. I think the effect of this logic too will be no better than that of Louis XIV. It is now estimated that the United States has got enough fissile material for the making of 6,000 bombs. Each one of them, if properly dropped on centres of population, could wipe out almost the entire cities. It is not known how much Soviet Russia has got, but it is supposed to be 300, by authorities who claim to know the inner facts. But the rate of production of Soviet Russia is said to be higher than that of America. That is not exactly the point now, but the very stockpiling of this dangerous material has produced alarm throughout the whole world. The question which is uppermost in the minds of the people is this: Is any of the great powers using this dangerous material to end civilization, or, will better sense prevail and the different nations will utilise this stock-pile of

[Shri Meghnad Saha]

material for peaceful purposes? It has been pointed out by great authorities that the development of atomic bomb by two rival groups has somewhat obviated the dangers. The situation is similar to that of gas warfare at the end of the first world war. Gas warfare was perfected during the second world war, but people knew that if any party used gas warfare, the retaliation would be so swift and so great, that both the belligerent parties refrained from using gas warfare. We therefore think that no atomic warfare is probable in the near future. We can therefore ask ourselves what will be the peaceful application of atomic energy which will transform human life? We are aware that a good deal of our backwardness is due to the fact that we have not been able to utilise energy. We have not been able to produce much power which we can apply to develop the resources of this country and increase the productivity in every field.

I shall just give an example. This country, like the countries in medieval times, still depends upon manpower and animal power. We use about 90 units per head and as regards electrical and steam power, probably our total *per capita* production is about 60 or 70 units at the present time. So, our total *per capita* energy will not be more than 40 or 150 units. Compared to this, the great countries of the west like Soviet Russia, and above all, the United States of America, produce every year about two to three thousand units of energy *per capita*. That is the reason why those countries have achieved so much economic prosperity. The *per capita* income of India is about Rs. 260; that of America is about twenty or thirty times higher than this. The income of other countries falls in between these two. So, if we have to solve this problem of poverty, problem of malnutrition, the problem of giving plenty to all our brothers and sisters, the Government must have a plan for the development of energy in this country and for utilisation of that energy, to develop the natural resources of the country. Unfortunately, our power is not so great. We have very limited supplies of coal and if we utilise all the coal in the way that America does, it will not last more than a few decades. Our hydro-electric power is also very limited, and excepting a few parts of India—the eastern parts, the Himalayan regions, Mysore and to a certain extent, Travancore-Cochin—the remaining parts of India are power-hungry. It is very difficult to develop the natural resources of this country. There are five iron ores in the Salem district of Madras but these cannot be developed because we have no power. There are great mineral deposits in Rajputana. They cannot be developed because there is no hydro-electric power there. Whatever can be developed from the Chambal is very small and coal has to be hauled over long distances and it does no become a paying proposition. In all these parts, if atomic energy can be developed it will prove a great blessing.

Every country in the world has become conscious of this great fact and every counry is trying to develop atomic enegry, each in its own way. But, there has been a very great difficulty. America has been first in the field and, taking advantage of her great position, she has tried to corner all the raw materials —uranium and thorium and the moderating minerals like purified graphite, beryllium and heavy water. Unfortunately, very few countries of the world have got these resources. And, as a mattter of fact, after the termination of the war, America parted company with her former friends like the United Kingdom, France and other countries and put a ban on the export of atomic materials, on the export of knowledge. You know what has happened as a consequence.

The other countries of the world have been at a great disadvantage to utilise atomic energy. Let us take the example of England itself. England's great prosperity is due to her possession of coal deposits. But, she feels that, at the present rate of consumption, her coal deposits would be exhausted after about a hundred years. Therefore, they made very great attempts to explore the possibilities of atomic power and they have succeeded to a large extent. They say that without American aid, depending upon their own expert knowledge, they have developed atomic energy plants and they think that in a few years power would be provided by atomic reactors. But, other countries have not been fortunate like England. England has got a great Empire—even minus India—and she has been able to discover large deposits of uranium in different parts of that Empire. She has taken all this uranium to her own country. They have erected very huge plants and have been able to have a stock-pile of uranium out of which they have been able to set up numerous reactors, which are the first stage for the development of atomic energy. They confidently claim that in a few years they will have economic atomic energy plants. I may say that atomic energy plants are at present nowhere economic propositions, just as the steam engine, when it was discovered, was not an economic proposition at all. To produce one unit of power, one unit of energy one had to spend nearly ten lbs. of coal. Now, it has been reduced to one lb. Similarly, atomic energy electricity will cost about 10 or 20 times more than ordinary electricity. But, experiments are in progress, in England and America, which will goratly bring down this margin. At the present time, atomic energy can only be used in those regions where cost is of no account, for example, in making an atom bomb or in running submarines or even aeroplanes. Though England has been successful in solving her atomic energy problems to a great extent, this has not been the case with other countries. For example take France. It is a long way behind, though after a terrible effort extending over a period of six or seven years, they now say that, without the aid of America or any other country who would not sell uranium for any amount of money or other atomic materials for any amount of money, they have been able to get everything within their own Empire and have been able to set up three or four reactors. They now say that they have achieved atomic autonomy and it will be possible for them to run their industries with the aid of atomic energy in ten or twenty years. This is very great importance to France because France had been handicapped on account of her poor resources of energy. She has no coal practically and she depends only on hydro-electric power. Though she has got the finest iron ores in the Lorraine region, she has to depend upon German coal for the development of her iron and steel industry.

The other European countries are in a very bad condition. I was in Sweden in 1946-47. I talked with some of my Swedish friends. They were all alive to the possibilities of atomic energy but they said they could not get uranium for any amount of money. They tried to explore their own uranium ores, which contained only a very small part, scarcely 0·1 or 0·2 per cent. We find that by this time Sweden has not been able to put up an atomic reactor.

The only other European country which has been able to do so, is a joint enterprise by Holland and Norway. Holland had a great Empire and she could scrape sufficient uranium before she quitted Indonesia, and she had enough uranium for a nuclear reactor. On the other hand, Norway had not uranium but she had the moderating material, chiefly heavy water. They have combined and been able to have a nuclear reactor.

[Shri Meghnad Saha]

Other countries, the Latin-American countries are still a long way behind. Therefore, we see that most of the countries of the world are not able to take advantage of this discovery.

In this debate, I wish to invite the attention of the House to the excellent suggestions which have been made out by President Eisenhower on December 8th, before the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation in a meeting which was presided over by Shrimati Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit. In this debate she made a suggestion for easing war tension by making a very generous gesture. We have got a stockpile of this dangerous material. It is not our intention to utilise it for war purposes. She formulated four points. I have put them in a different form.

(1) Opening of a new channel for peaceful discussion and to initiate at least a new approach to the many different problems that must be solved in both private and public conversation if the world is to shake off the inertia imposed by fear and is to make positive progress towards peace. This is in general terms.

The second is also like that. To allow all people. of all nations to see that in this enlightened age, the Great Powers of the earth both of the East and of the West are interested in human aspirations first rather than in building up the armaments of war. This is also in general terms.

But the more pointed and concrete proposals are given in the next resolution. To begin to diminish the potential destructive power of the world's atomic stockpile. I have just now told you that America has got a stock-pile for about 6000 atom bombs and Russia has got a stockpile of probably lesser amount. Britain's stockpile is probably far inferior to that possessed by these two nations. We have been told that the hydrogen bomb is far more dangerous. It may, in fact, be made nearly 600 times more dangerous. But no hydrogen bomb can work without the atom bomb. When the atom bomb acts as a detonator, it sends the hydrogen bomb into action. Some stockpile of uranium is a fundamental thing which we require; the other things are not very difficult. If this stockpile, which is already there, is made for peaceful purposes, it can solve the power requirements of the world for a few years and that will be a great blessing. President Eisenhower's third proposal is to begin to diminish the potential destructive power of the world's atomic stockpiling. Then, the fourth resolution is to encourage worldwide investigations into the most effective peacetime uses of fissionable material and with the certainty that they had all the material needed for the conduct of all experiments that were appropriate. These two were the main proposals. He has also told us how to take advantage of the proposals. He makes the proposal that "the Governments principally involved, to the extent permitted by elementary prudence, to begin now and continue to make joint contributions from their stockpiles of normal uranium and fissionable material in an international atomic energy agency. We would expect that such an agency would be set up under the aegis of the United Nations. The ratios o contribution, the procedures and other details would probably be within the scope of private conversations I have referred to earlier." This is a proposal for making an internationa pool where uranium and other mate rials would be contributed by the U.S.A. and by Russia, and out of this the other countries should be allowed to take such amount of material as will be necessary for their own experiments. For example, India ha got an Atomic Energy Commissio and five years ago we had announc ed that we were going to set up nuclear reactor within five years This is 1954 and nuclear reactor ha not been set up. We are in the sam condition as Sweden. Though we have got thorium, we have not got sufficient stocks of uranium and we have not been able to get together 30 tons of uranium and about 100 tons of pure graphite, which are necessary for setting up a nuclear reactor. I do not know how long it will take us to make good this proposal. It may take us years to set up a nuclear reactor, but if there is an international pool like this from which we can draw up the necessary material, it will be possible for us to set up a nuclear reactor within a very short time. We all welcome the creation of the international pool of fissionable materials. It will enable small nations as well as backward nations like ourselves and China to draw upon this international pool and set up a reactor and set on these experiments which will be necessary before atomic energy becomes a practical proposition. I hope that our Government will weigh the proposals of President Eisenhower very carefully and will lend to it all its support. I have talked with several of the political groups and it may be that they smell something very rotten in these proposals, but I do not see why we should take a very gloomy view from the very beginning. Even if we get a gift of fissionable materials, is it possible for us to utilise them properly for the good of the country? If atomic energy is really to be useful, we cannot depend upon foreign countries. You know they would not part with their knowledge. You have read of the prosecutions of spies and so on. We have to develop all the knowledge in this country; we have to develop our own personnel. Have we got a proper organisation for all that? We have not got. I would insist upon our Government that they make our atomic energy work more broad-based, they spend more money upon it and train up a band of personnel which will be able to take advantage of this offer by the United States and other countries, if it comes at all. If this international agency does not come into existence, we have to depend upon our own efforts and I do not think it is impossible for us to develop atomic energy if we harness all the talents in the country and spend a sufficient amount of money for the development of atomic energy. I would just remind the House that this new discovery is almost like the discovery of knowledge of ancient classics which brought on the renaissance in Europe, and if we have to take advantage of this discovery, we must make sufficient efforts. As I have told you, America spends about two billion dollars; England spends about one-tenth of that, and it is said that France, which has got no weapon development in its programme, spends one-tenth of that. While America spends one dollar, England spends 10 cents, and France spends about one cent. The French expenditure would be from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 crores. If we have to develop atomic energy in this country, we have to spend about Rs. 10 crores to start with, and this is worth spending on account of the great promise which it holds for solving the problems of poverty, malnutrition and disease in this country. At the present time, we are spending about Rs. 3 crores on scientific research. If this organisation is to come into existence, we must have a bigger organisation than the present Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has got. Therefore, the Atomic Energy Commission, which you have got now, has to be scrapped and we must start our work on a broad basis. First of all, there should be no secrecy. If you read our Atomic Energy Act, you find that it does not tell us what to do, but it simply tells us what is not to be done. We shall not export neptunium, we shall not do this, we shall not do that and so on. I would ask our hon. friends on the Treasury Bench to read the Atomic Energy Acts of England and America and see how broad-based they are. They, of course, have secrecy, but the Act deals with how work has to be organised properly and how the money, which will be devoted for this purpose, has to be

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spent judiciously, how the efforts of the scientific talents of the country have to be harnessed in one scientific effort. There is a common prejudice that atomic scientists are a special class by themselves. It is a great fallacy; it is an illusion. There has been no atomic scientist to start with. The atomic scientists have been ordinary chemists, ordinary physicists, biologists and others. When this great discovery came, they turned their minds to the discovery and tried to find out how to utilise that for the different purposes. So, the atomic energy scientist is not a new race that has come into existence. But if we utilise the scientific talents available in this country, then we can have an atomic energy organisation which will be as fruitful, which can develop atomic energy as sucessfully as any other country in the world. We have got raw materials scattered all over the country; we have got unravelled deposits of thorium in Travancore; we have got uranium here and there; but we have got a very poor prospecting organisation. I think we are utilising the services only of 40 or 50 men and all of them are not geologists. Prof. Julie Curie, who was Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission in France, and started the work, told me that he had employed about two hundred fully qualified geologists and under them he had trained another about four or five thousand men to explore not only all the regions of France, but also French colonies like Madagascar, Morocco, and the result of this great effort is found in the French success in building up three or four nuclear reactors. I think if we have to get all the uranium in our country and process them, we must make as big and mighty effort as this.

I would therefore, suggest, that Government should convene a meeting of the selected persons of this country who are conversant with and interested in the latest developments of atomic energy to advise them as to how to draft a reply to the President's proposals. This meeting should also advice Government on this point:

How far the scientists of this country engaged in fundamental investigations of nuclear physics, chemistry, biology and medicine would be benefited if the President of the United States' wishes were to be accepted in a practical form by the United Nations Organisation; second how far the industrialisation of India would be accelerated if one or two atomic energy power plants of about half to one million capacity were to be established in the power-hungry areas of India like the South, except Mysore, parts of Rajasthan and Central India.

I think, Sir, I have spoken sufficiently about the way in which the organisation has to be set up and we should reply to President Eisenhower's proposal. Let me conclude by saying that development of atomic energy in this country holds out a very great future and as far as I know our scientific colleagues of this country are capable of shouldering this great task. It now is for the Government and our youngmen—I have spent one generation and a half in training younger generations to undertake this work, and I know that if our young scientists are entrusted with this great task they can deliver the goods. I would, therefore, request Government to make our atomic energy establishment more broad-based than it has been so far and to expel all ideas of secrecy from the new Atomic Energy Act.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, this is an unusual but a very significant debate. It goes without saying, Sir, that all possible efforts should be made in our country and elsewhere to secure the peaceful use of atomic energy and thereby harness a marvel of scientific achievement to the task of furthering the happiness of people all over the world.

I was very interested to hear the extremely illuminating speech with which Dr. Saha introduced the subject, but I fear, Sir, that for the Eisenhower statement of the 8th of December last he has come to conceive what I should say is for an objectively-minded scientist a somewhat immoderate and un-realistic appreciation. Basically, Sir, it is not far different from the earlier Baruch Plan which was shown to be the fake—it was by Prof. Blackett in his *Political and Military consequences of atomic energy*. But, of course, I certainly concede that it shows a change of emphasis in the United States policy, a kind of realisation that with the balance of atomic power appearing sometimes to be tilting back against the West, demands which were conceived when the United States had ultimate atomic superiority could not continue to be pressed.

Actually it would be a serious error to imagine that the Eisenhower speech of the 8th of December was a great gesture of peace and self-abnegation, for the simple reason that it was not so and it cannot be so unfortunately as long as the United States foreign policy does not undergo a change. I say this, Sir, because I find from the *New York Times* of the 23rd of December that the new United States Defence Budget places more reliance on atomic weapons than the earlier ones. I find the Secretary of the Treasury, Humphreys, repeatedly demanding the Defence Department ceased planning for different kinds of war, but to concentrate on preparation for atomic war. As long as this mentality persists, the kind of proposal which President Eisenhower has made will not go very far.

But, Sir, it is a very good sign of the times that after all it is an attempt to negotiate things and that is why the Soviets have not by any means condemned the Eisenhower proposal out of hand. On the 21st December they sent a reply, a reply to President Eisenhower's address, and the statement of the Soviet Govt. was issued as a supplement to "News" dated January 1, 1954, which is available in the Parliament Library. There have been also discussions between Monsr. Molotov and Mr. Dulles on the 30th of January 1954 and 13th of February 1954, according to press reports. Now, Sir, as far as the Soviet reaction to Eisenhower's statement is concerned, the Soviets pointed out that they are ready and willing to discuss the question of the peaceful use of atomic energy on an international basis, but they propose that all, and not a small proportion of fissionable material, be used for this purpose. And that is why they reiterate their call for a formal renunciation of the use of atomic weapons and of all other weapons of mass extermination. Now that is brought out in the answer of the Soviet Government to the proposal of President Eisenhower.

This statement makes it clear that Eisenhower proposes that from the available and newly created stockpile of atomic materials, only "some" (it is a quotation from the statement of President Eisenhower) or a small part will be contributed for peaceful purposes. Hence it follows that the main bulk of atomic materials as hitherto will go for the production of new atomic and hydrogen bombs and there remains the full possibility of further stock-piling of atomic weapons and developing new types. Secondly, Sir, President Eisenhower's proposal does not in the least limit the very possibility of using atomic weapons. The adoption of this proposal in no way restricts the aggressor as regards the use of atomic weapons for any purposes and at any time. Therefore, Sir, this is not by any means a satisfactory matter. I am sure, Sir, just as a bench on the river bank cannot be a substitute for a bridge, so Eisenhower's uranium pool cannot be a substitute for an international agreement which prohibits,

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totally and unconditionally, the employment of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction. This point has been hammered over and over again by the Soviet Government, since 1946 I think, in the United Nations and its various agencies. Beginning from June 1946, the Soviet Government has stated, times without number, that there should be a total and immediate ban on the atomic, hydrogen and other kinds of mass destructive weapons which are now at the disposal of mankind. Peaceful utilisation of atomic energy is a very important matter and it is very interesting to find that from Soviet material which again is circulated in this country and sent out to all sorts of people, I find in the News and Views from the Soviet Union dated May 8, 1954, and distributed by Tass agency an article on atomic energy at the service of the national economy. It says that in the Soviet Union they have already started utilising atomic energy for peaceful purposes. I find also a speech made by M. Malenkov in the Soviet Parliament on 26th April 1954 and there he says: "the people of our country take pride in the achievements of Soviet science which opens new possibilities for technical progress and for the evergrowing use of atomic energy in the interests of safeguarding the security of our homeland and for peaceful industrial purposes." This is concrete evidence of the service which is being rendered now by the Soviet scientists. Utilisation for peaceful industrial purpose has started there already and that is why in this article we find all kinds of references which, I, as a layman, do not very well understand but it says very clearly that atomic energy is being used in a variety of ways in order to develop the power potential of their country. "One k. g. of any substance contains a potential supply of atomic energy equal to the chemical energy of 2.7 million tons of coal or 25 thousand million k. w. of electric energy. This is 2:5 times as much energy as will be produced in a year by the Kuibyshev hydro-electric station which is the biggest in the world." This is the way in which we find the Soviet Government utilising atomic energy. Certainly we would like to see that something should be done in our country about it. There must be concentration on the point that the horrors of war are going to be of fantastic dimensions—they are fantastic but they are by no means unreal—because of the knowledge at the disposal of mankind. War is no earthquake or tornado; it is a man-made evil and man can certainly prevent it. That is why there must be concentration on the demand for an immediate ban on all these methods of mass destruction.

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I will refer, in this connection, to a statement made on the 17th April 1954 by Vyshinsky at a meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Commission where this matter and other cognate matters were gone into. He was speaking on a British draft resolution which said that there should be a sub-committee on disarmament consisting of representatives of Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Canada. He moved an amendment to this resolution suggesting that they should add India, China and Czechoslovakia. He was defeated. Our friends of the Commonwealth—we all go together—said that India has no right to be there. In this speech on the 24th April, he said and explained how India should be there. I feel that India should make her voice felt as she is making her voice felt on so many international issues, today. As far as our own internal position regarding our capacity to utilise atomic energy for peaceful purposes is concerned, I cannot say very much but I shall only say this that we have found out from the questions asked in this House that monazite is sent out. It is very likely—more likely than not—that when it is sent out, it goes to the wrong place. Anyhow, we are in favour of an immediate and total ban on all these methods of mass extermination and that is why we should raise our voice against such horrors. We should do all we can in order to promote the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy since I am sure, we have got our eminent scientists, we have got the technical personnel, and the spirit and the idealism too, I hope, with which we can go forward. Let us try to build our own house in the way we wish to do and at the same time, let us try to bring about an international climate where it will not be possible for people to go on holding out the threat of atomic and hydrogen weapons, whatsoever. This is a very important matter. President Eisenhower has made an effort: it is good as far as it goes but it does not go anywhere near because it bases itself on the United States of America being entitled to use atomic and other weapons of mass extermination at its pleasure. That is the point and we must raise our voice against this when we are discussing the enormous possibilities of peaceful utlization of atomic energy.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I rise to take part in this discussion strictly in my personal capacity, as the House knows, the subject-matter of atomic energy is entirely controlled by the Prime Minister as head of the Atomic Energy Commission. I am sure he will deal with all the points connected with policies of Govt. in this connection and the exploitation of Atomic energy for peaceful purposes and also suggestions which have been put forward by my hon. friends. I am only concerned with saying something to my friend, Dr Saha who has just now offered certain suggestions with regard to exploitation of atomic energy and pursuing other work in this connection. My submission is that howsoever great the organisational effort of the Government may be, it is mostly the initiative of the scientists and their zeal and earnestness which could fill up the gap that unfortunately exists today between what we know about atomic energy and fissionable elements and what we do not in our country. If the scientists change their profession and become politicians then I am afraid this work will surely be delayed. I was thinking of many politicians giving up their politics and becoming scientists, I never thought it advisable of scientists taking to politics and indulging in political controversies.

I would like to submit very briefly some problems that face the solution of this question of filling up of this gap. As the House is aware, there is an organisation set up by the Government, known as the Atomic Energy Commission. It is tackling the problem in a particular way. There are three main problems which face this Commission. One is metallurgical, processing and purification of the materials that are used for generating and modifying atomic energy. The other is to perfect and produce all those engineering mechanism which will be used for fissioning or splitting the radio active material and the third is to know fundamentals about the inside of the atom—the physics and the energy behaviour of the radio-active elements, the way in which it emanates from inside and its utilisation for peaceful purposes. As you know Sir, whether it is uranium ore or thorium ore they have got to be processed and converted into pure elements. Apart from this, as the hon. Member has mentioned there is the moderator. We all know what a moderator is. When an atom is fissioned, or split the vast amount of energy which emanates from it, must be harnessed and controlled. Otherwise, it will burn up before its use. Therefore, the function of a moderator is to control the terrific energy and its high velocity which is created immediately after the emanation of that energy. That is why we require

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moderators which are called graphites or Beryllium or heavy water. Then they have also got not only to be pure but very pure. In order to get the purest type of uranium and thorium, to convert it from uranium oxide and thorium oxide to uranium and thorium and also purified graphite, and to get the purest type of beryllium from the beryllium ore of Rajasthan, and to manufacture heavy water—all this needs metallurgical and processing knowledge which cannot be obtained by mere governmental organisation, or by policy level discussions, or party factions, but which can be contributed only by scientists. It is the job of scientists. I might humbly remind Dr. Saha that the history of the atom is as short and swift as was the history of the last war. It began in 1939. I will not talk about 1898 since when Curie and others discovered radio activity from radium and uranium. The history is short from 1939 to 1945. In 1939 it was the American scientists, not the Government, the refugee scientists who organised themselves to find out the secret which was already known to the Germans. Because, as you know, the Germans were the first to split the atom those days. When this information of achievment of atom splitting was conveyed to America, the scientists there also tried, feverishly their level best, and in a few days,—not by governmental efforts but by the scientists' efforts, they also succeeded in splitting the atom. So if my suggestion to eminent scientists like Dr. Saha is considered favourably we can perhaps go a long way in solving problems connected with getting energy from the atom.

The organisation of the Atom Energy Commission is at present doing this work to the best of its capacity. All the three items of work which I have enumerated above are being tackled by the Commission. They are setting up new experimental laboratories, they have already set up some. They are shifting some of them to more suitable places. They are engaged in pilot scale efforts so that purification methods can be learnt and known by us by which we can later on convert ores into pure uranium and also thorium from the thorium-uranium cake of Travancore-Cochin.

A nuclear reactor group has already been created, as my friend must be knowing from the Ministry's documents.

Shri Meghnad Saha: These ought to have been done in 1948. Please read the first statement of the Atomic Energy Commission, that we are going to have a nuclear reactor in five years. That was in 1948. Why has the group been formed five years afterwards?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am just mentioning what has been done by the Commission. It is for Dr. Saha to assess whether it is slow or otherwise. I myself know why it is slow and that is why I suggested that eminent scientists like Dr. Saha should be more energetic and should contribute to the knowledge we are trying to gain.

This group has already been created and they have sent their scientists' parties outside to learn about the new designs of the Commission's first nuclear reactor. They will see things for themselves and on return try to design their own reactor.

So we are not silent on this work which is as important as the purification of uranium, thorium and moderators.

Then there is the Physics Division which is engaged in the fundamental research work and is also pursuing in some of the work that will have to be faced when the reactor is ready. There is the Nuclear Physics Group. The cascade generator has already been set up to study various experiments of high velocity nuclear bombardment so that by the time our nuclear reactor is ready we will be able to take the assistance of scientists who have gained experience on this Lithium-Helium conversion project.

What I mean to say Sir, is that if we go on harnessing all the efforts of the scientists we can expedite the creation of an efficient training centre also. We can expedite the work on all fronts.

Dr. Saha mentioned prospecting of radio-active mineral ores. This requires certain delicate and costly instruments. We have got some like the geiger counters. We ought to have more powerful ones like scintillometers. It is for the scientists to give us a scintillo-meter. If we do not have more delicate instruments which will give us knowledge of the uranium underground by more systematic air survey then of course we have to wait for some time either till we get it from outside or till the day when we can get it from the scientists.

My hon. friend Shri Mukerjee says that monazite is sent out. Of course monazite is sent out, but only a very little percentage of it. The major part of it remains here and is separated by magnetic separator which is used by our own factories to be subsequently processed into uranium and thorium.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): Why should we send it out at all?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Because we get something more valuable instead.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Could we know whom we send it to?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: To half a dozen or eight countries.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Lastly, Sir, I will refer to the Slogan of Dr. Gordon Dean, outgoing Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of U.S.A. "Uranium is where you find it." There is not much uranium in America, as my friend Dr. Saha knows. It is more in the Belgian Congo, Bohemia and Russia. There is not much in U.S.A. But they have found sufficient quantity of uranium by giving such a slogan to the young scientists. In thousands they go out into jungles with delicate instruments. They have an organisation in which scientists and university professors take a lot of interest. They spend a lot of money but also take a lot of initiative. There is the dovetailing of efforts between the Government and the scientists. They are not diverting their energies from the main test set before them.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Have you given that slogan here?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Well, it is for you to take it.

I have nothing more to say except that Dr. Saha is my old professor. I have been an old student of his. I know he was very obstinate. He is very good and useful when he is not obstinate, but not as good when he is obstinate. His sticking to politics, Sir, I think, is one of those occasions.

Shri Raghuramaiah (Tenali): I think it is high time we realise that when we discuss a matter like this we should forget not only politics but also international politics. It is very unfortunate that in this debate references to the Soviet Union and United States and their power politics are brought up, because it warps our judgement. And one major reason why we have been pleading for the banning of the atomic bomb and the hydrogen bomb is that human attention is now diverted more to the destructive side of this energy than to the constructive side. I may mention that I have studied this subject only to a slight extent. But from what little I have studied it seems to me that we are on the dawn of a great era of human existence, more potential than that of the Industrial era. The nations that have

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come up in the industrial field have taken advantage of the invention of steam power. How many people in this country know the great potentiality of atomic energy? When we compare one pound of atomic fuel with one pound of coal, we will find that the fire produced by atomic fuel is about 260,000 times more than that produced by coal. It can equal, given a certain quantity, solar energy. The capabilities of that can be imagined. It is not as though this is not being used even now, for locomotive purposes. I am told that in the USA, this atomic power is actually harnessed and is being used for submarines. These submarines are able to go round the world over and over again without halting anywhere for picking up oil, etc. The power is so vast that one can go round the world any number of times without refuelling.

There are of course certain difficulties at the moment. For instance, it is found that in order to prevent the radio activity which emanates from this fission, a certain covering is necessary. Only cement, heavy material like lead and water are found suitable for the purpose. This is a handicap. For instance, in the case of aeroplanes, if you have to encase these atomic machines, with lead, it becomes too heavy. But, as some of the authorities on atomic energy said, we are still children gathering pebbles in the beach of the vast ocean of atomic knowledge. Within a decade or so, it is expected that we may be able to discover those substances which will be able to encase the atomic machines and which may be even lighter than air. This country is very fortunate in one respect. It is true that we have not got much of uranium 235 which is considered the most natural substance for atomic fission. But, we have thorium, one of the substances which can be potentially used for the production of atomic energy. I was very happy to find from a statement by Mr. Gordon Dean, one of the previous Chairmen of the Atomic Energy Commission that we have very great resources of thorium. Referring to the thorium capacity of this country, he says:

> "Of possible great future significance is the fact that India has probably the world's richest deposits of monazite, a sand containing thorium."

Incidentally, I might point out especially to those that say that this Government is sleeping about this, what this former Chairman of the USA Atomic Energy Commission has to say about our own work in this field. He says:

> "Among the nations of Asia, India has the largest and most advanced atomic energy programme. It is a peaceful programme directed towards exploiting the atom as a source of power, and it is carried out under the control and supervision of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission which was set up in 1948 when the Atomic Energy Act was adopted."

He has also complimented us on our efforts to utilise this new knowledge for medical purposes. Our research stations are *inter alia* concentrating on the diagnosis and the cure of cancer and other diseases. We have certainly not lagged behind. That does not mean, of course, that we have not to hurry up with this matter. There is a great deal to be done. As I said, our present knowledge is so very limited. It is quite possible that humanity may conquer space and time as a result of this new knowledge—space, of course, is obvious, because you can annihilate distance by means of atomic machines. Take, for instance an aeroplane. If you can only find a lighter substance which can encase the atomic power, it can go round and round the globe hundreds of times without any refueling, and—we do not know—some day in something like a rocket we may be able to go one fine morning for breakfast to the stars or the moon. It may have such potentialities. People would have laughed in the middle ages if somebody told them about aeroplanes, X-rays, about telephones and wireless and so on. So, today it is quite possible we may laugh in our ignorance at the great possibilities. As I said at the very beginning it is very necessary for us to forget for a while the bomb that smashed Hiroshima or the hydrogen bomb that has destroyed some millions of fish in the Pacific Ocean. It is this bomb aspect that is warping our attitude and blinding us to the great possibilities of utilisation of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

There is only one solution for it. As our Prime Minister said the other day, there should be a ban on the hydrogen and other bombs. There should be not only a temporary stoppage, but a complete ban so that human attention may be diverted more and more to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. We are certainly on the dawn of a great era and I would earnestly endorse the suggestion made here this morning that this matter should be dealt with on an international level. The quantity of uranium is so very limited that once you leave it to the nations to exploit it as they like, there is the great danger of it being utilized for the production of destructive weapons which will destroy human civilisation. Once you bring the whole of this raw material into an international pool, then it will be used for the best purposes for which human nature is willing to adopt it, and the new era of human civilisation would have dawned. I would therefore, most earnestly endorse the suggestion that there should be an international pooling, international control, of this atomic energy, that there should be a complete ban on all atomic weapons of destruction. I do hope our Government will do their very best towards the achievement of this object.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am glad of this discussion and grateful to Shri Meghnad Saha for having initiated it, though I feel that he has perhaps done less than justice to the work done so far by our Atomic Energy Commission.

Of Course, it is quite possible and it may be perfectly justified to say that the work may have been, ought to have been bigger, vaster, speedier. That can always be said about any work that we undertake, but quite a large number of fairly competent critics, not very friendly critics either, from abroad have testified to the very considerable work done by our Atomic Energy Commission and have indicated that India has laid the basis for fairly rapid advance in the future.

Naturally, our pace and rate of work is determined by so many factors. Shri Meghnad Saha mentioned that the United States of America spend one thousand crores of, presumably, rupees a year on this, that the United Kingdom spends a hundred crores and other countries spend less. Well, it is perfectly true that our average rate of expenditure as exists is Rs. 1 crore. Now, it is possible, of course, to increase the sum and also increase the other thing, facilities for doing this work. That is a matter of right priorities and giving more importance to some aspects. For my part, I should like to increase very rapidly to the very full the geological and like surveys of India. Of course, we have got a geological survey but not that type of geological and mineral survey and other survey which would require hundreds and hundreds of people, competent people, to do it. I confess that I am not satisfied at the rate at which we do these things. Anyhow, I would submit that we have made progress even comparatively speaking—leaving for the moment some half a dozen big nations of the world who have far greater resources and who started much earlier than us. Right at the beginning, may I say that I welcome Dr. Saha's suggestion that specialists in this field, that selected scientists

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who are interested directly or even indirectly in this work, should meet together and gather at a conference or a symposium,—whatever you like to call it—to discuss this matter and to make suggestions as to how to make greater progress and what new lines to take up? I entirely agree with him that it is a very desirable step to take. But when Dr. Saha goes on to say that this meeting of scientists should take place to draft a reply to President Eisenhower, I was amazed,—to draft a reply to the speech of President Eisenhower delivered before the United Nations, a speech which is worthy of our respect and careful attention. But for a number of scientists to sit down and draft a reply to President Eisenhower does appear to me somewhat astounding.

Shri Meghnad Saha: I meant this: it is to advise our Government in drafting a reply.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It comes to the same thing. First of all, I do not quite see why even the Government of India should sit down to draft and send a reply to the speech delivered by the President of the United States to the United Nations. I am not aware of any other Government having drafted a reply and sent it. President Eisenhower's speech was, if I may say so with all respect, a fine speech, with generous sentiments and with a proposal which deserves our attention. But the proposal was a vague proposal; it is a vague indication of which way one should look; not exactly a specific proposal. If you want to know what proposals there are, go to the Disarmament Conference or to the Commission dealing with atomic energy matters. You can see there the proposals of the different countries, and then you can consider them. Anyhow, I am glad of this discussion and I would like this discussion, as far as possible, to be separated from the purely political aspects. I know it is difficult to do that. Hon. Members opposite and those on this side talked about banning these weapons. Well, we feel that we should ban or control all these terrible weapons. But it is not quite clear to me how our sentiments in this matter are going to result in that ban, or how a strong speech in this House can result in banning them. Ultimately, sometime or other, they will have to be controlled, if not put an end to. Well, from a good deal of what we know of this world, if one is all the time talking about banning this, who is to bell the cat? It might have been possible if there had been no conflict or collision in this respect—each afraid of the other. Nobody is going to be controlled till he is quite certain that the other is controlled; and nobody is going to be certain till there is much more confidence in each other than there is at present. Each will think: 'oh, there is some public protestation; secretly, this will not be given effect to.' I am not going into that matter. As I said, it it obviously necessary to control these weapons. But how to control them? How to ban them? That is again another matter of great difficulty. It is all very well to say, control or ban them. Who is to ban them? Who is to control them? International law, as is well known, is rather a feeble instrument even yet. So, let us discuss this question apart from its political aspect although it is intimately tied up with it. One cannot dissociate it; nevertheless, let us consider it apart from politics.

Further, in this twentieth century, in the last generation or two, we have come up against certain explorations of the remotest frontiers of human knowledge and they are leading us to all manner of strange discoveries and strange consequences. Max Planck's quantum theory and, later on, Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, changed the whole conception of the universe. Most people may not realise it even now though they changed the whole conception of the universe and the world. All other things followed. The atom bomb struck us because of the tremendous power to kill. Vast changes in human conception had taken place as my friend Mr. K. D. Malaviya suggested. This only came on the scene in 1939 when some German scientist did something, split the atom or whatever they say rather crudely. Soon after, the Americans did it. In America, it was in fact a migrant scientist who did it and in 1942 something else happened and a chain of reactions was established by Italian scientists. By August 1945, Hiroshima fell, as the result of the work from 1939 to 1945.

Since then, of course tremendous progress has been made in this and the world has been struck by it because it is a terrible thing. Now, therefore, the human mind and human efforts are unleashing tremendous powers without quite knowing how to control them. You will not control these by a mere demand to ban this or to ban that. Nobody can really control the human mind from going on unleashing new things; they will go on doing that. How to approach this problem of control which is of vital conseqence is one of the political problems of the day. Behind that lies some measure of lessening the tension in the world, some measure of confidence in each other by the great nations, some agreement to live and let live and not to try to destroy others, to allow each country to live its own life. Unless that approach is made, the only other approach is of conflict and if the idea of conflict is in the minds of nations, then the atom bomb will undoubtedly remain; it doesn't matter your going on talking about banning it or not.

Now, let us consider these possible issues. It is perfectly clear that atomic energy can be used for peaceful purposes, to the tremendous advantage of humanity. Probably, it may take some years, may be five years or may be ten years, but not too long, before it can be used more or less economically. I should like the House to remember one thing. The use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes is far more important for a country like India, that is to say, in a country whose power resources are limited, than for a country like France, an industrially advanced country. Take the United States of America, which has already tremendous power resources in other ways. It is not so much for them to have an additional source of power like atomic energy. No doubt they can use it; it is not so important. It is important for a power-starved or a power-hungry country like India or like most of the other countries in Asia and Africa. I say that because it may be to the advantage of the countries who have adequate power resources to restrain and restrict the use of atomic energy because they do not want that power. It would be to the disadvantage of a country like India if that is restricted or stopped. It is a very important factor to remember from the point of view of this so-called international control. It is probably loose talk, this talk of control. Who is to control it internationally? Who are the international nations who are going to control it? One may say, the United Nations. Obviously, there is no other organisation approaching the United Nations in its international scope. And yet, the House knows, the United Nations even now does not include in its scope even the big nations of the world. Some of the biggest are kept out of its scope. The United Nations can only control itself. It cannot control any nation which is not in it, which it refuses to admit and with which it would not have anything to do, so that the result will be that you control a great part of the world, but still there is a part of the world which is not controlled by it. That part, over which there is no control, makes all the mischief. You do not control it; it is not, in fact, recognised by you; you treat it as if it did not exist. It will go its own way and upset the apple-cart. Therefore, the question of international control becomes difficult. Reference has been made in President Eisenhower's

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speech to this international control. We all agree with the proposition that if it can be so organised, there should be proper international control and proper use made of the stock of fissile materials, so that all countries can use them for research work or for proper purposes. Well and good. But how is this to be done? There the difficulty comes in, President Eisenhower refers to some agency of the United Nations. That organisation appears reasonable, but then, let us go back and see what the actual proposals are before us in regard the atomic energy of various countries. These are the latest proposals, at the beginning of this year, of the United States:

"An international control agency shall be set up by the United Nations. It shall hereafter be an independent body outside the control of the Security Council and of the United Nations." The United Nations is merely supposed to set it up and wash its hands away. It becomes an independent organisation. So it is a very important matter as to what an independent organisation is. This organisation will, of course, have an unlimited right of inspection. Agreed. "It shall have the right to maintain its own guards on the territory of any foreign State, licenced to engage in any of the processes of the production of or research in atomic energy." It becomes a super-State atomic energy body, maintaining its own guards, armies or small armies, or whatever you like. Then again, "it shall own and control"—mark these words—"the raw materials mined, the plants in which the ore is processed, and all plants which deal with production of atomic energy wherever they may be situated in any country of the world." This is a very far-reaching provision, namely, that all our raw materials and our mines are owned and controlled by that independent body, which is even independent of the United Nations after it is created. It means tremendous power being concentrated in the hands of a select body. "It shall decide if, when and where and to what extent the various processes may be carried out and in which parts of the world atomic energy plants may be established"—and there are limitations also—"and it shall have authority to issue or withhold licences from countries, institutions or enterprises engaged in any activities relating to the production of atomic energy," and so on.

I read to you some of them and there are one or two others also. This tremendous and vast power is being given to a body which is even independent of the United Nations, which has sponsored it or started it. Who will be in this body? That is an important factor. Either you make the body as big as the United Nations with all the countries represented, or it will be some relatively small body, inevitably with the Great Powers sitting in it, and lording over it, and I say with all respect to them that they will have a grip of all the atomic energy areas and raw materials in every country. Now, in a country like India is it a desirable prospect?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: When hon. Members talk so much of international control, let us understand, without using vague phrases and language, what it means. There should be international control and inspection, but it is not such an easy matter as it seems. Certainly, we would be entitled to object to any kind of control which is not exercised to our advantage. We are prepared in this, as in any other matter, even to limit, in common with other countries, our independence of action for the common good of the world we are prepared to do that, provided we are assured that is for the common good of the world and not exercised in a partial way, not dominated over by certain countries, however good their motives might be. These are the difficulties that arise in this matter.

In President Eisenhower's speech these details are not gone into, but he says that what he calls "normal uranium" should be controlled. I could have understood even control of fissile materials. But President Eisenhower refers to "normal uranium". It is not clear what he means by "normal uranium". Presumably he means uranium ores. So, again we get back to the raw materials. So that, there is this difficulty. We want international control of this; we want fair use of it for peaceful purposes. This is common ground, not a matter for argument. But when we come to how it is to be done, we immediately get into difficulties. I submit it would not be right to agree to any plan which hands over even our raw materials and mines, etc., to any external authority. I would again beg the House to remember this major fact that atomic energy for peaceful purposes is far more important to the under-developed countries of the world than to the developed ones. And, if the developed countries have all the powers they may well stop the use of atomic energy everywhere, including in their own countries, because they do not need it so much, and we suffer.

We welcome the entire approach of President Eisenhower in this matter. Since he delivered his speech this question has been discussed by representatives of other Great Powers chiefly concerned, and if they find out any suitable method for creating this international pool, we will be very happy, —subject to what I have said, to share with, and give what we can to it.

Dr. Saha drew a rather dismal picture of our pitiable state in this matter. He referred to our coal supplies running out. Now, my own information, derived from our best geologists is contrary to what Dr. Saha said. I believe there is a dispute between Dr. Saha and our geologists, but with all my respect for him, I would take our geologists' word in this matter. Dr. Saha is an eminent physicist, but our geologists are expected to knew more about coal than Dr. Saha.

Here I may say what our geologists' estimate of our coal reserve is.

Total reserves of coal in the Indian rock-formations, upto a depth of 2,000 feet—60,000 million tons.

Total reserves of available coal, of all grades, which are considered workable by present methods—20,000 million tons.

Reserves of first grade coal, workable—5,000 million tons.

Reserves of coking coal suitable for metallurgical use—1,750 to 2,000 million tons.

Present-day annual consumption of coal in India, of all grades —35 million tons.

Annual consumption of metallurgical grade coal (coking coal used both for metallurgical and non-metallurgical purposes)—About 8 to 12 million tons.

Consumption of coking coal purely for metallurgical purposes —About 3 million tons.

As is well known we are wasting our best coal by using it in our railways, where it is not necessary. Attempts are being made in our railways not to use our best coal. Consumption of coking coal purely for metallurgical purposes is about 3 million tons, while our annual consumption of metallurgical grade coal both for metallurgical and non-metallurgical purposes is about 8 to 12 million tons. This is chiefly because our railways and some of our factories use this high grade coal, because it is easily available. We should curb this down, because our best coal should not be wasted in this way, while other coal is available.

Recent experiments conducted in India by the Fuel Research Institute and private industrial concerns, like Tatas go to show that our second-grade coal is capable of improvement

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to first-grade by coal-washing and blending methods. Large scale trials for (I regret I do not wholly understand the meaning of the word which I am going to read) "beneficiation"—making it better, I suppose—of low-grade coal give promise that India's coal resources will prove adequate for all her present as well as future needs.

According to the above summary, assuming that correct methods of mining are employed and waste is eliminated, we have reserves of 2,000 million tons of high-grade and coking coal which should last (if the consumption were restricted to use in iron and steel and other metal manufacturing industries alone) for a period of about 650 years. But India is using coking coal today for ordinary furnace and railway purposes, for domestic fuel, and some industrial uses to the extent of about ten to twelve million tons per annum. At this rate the life of coking coal reserves will be reduced to 160 years only.

The position, however, is different in respect of non-coking coal of food and medium quality, the supply of which is such as would last for several hundred years, allowing the present rate of consumption plus a progressively increasing rate for future industrial expansion.

Of course, India's resources in coal are much less than those of the United States, or the U. S. S. R.

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I interrupt? If our industrial power is increased ten times, its life time would be 650 divided by 10 which is 65 years. It is a very dismal prospect.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member is thinking of metallurgical coal. The other coal, even if the industrial capacity is increased tremendously, is enough to last for several hundred years.

Dr. Saha put a question, directly or indirectly, as to whether we have the necessary scientific personnel or requisite competence to set up a nuclear reactor. He mentioned that five years ago, we had stated that it would be set up. He is perfectly justified in pointing out that it has not been set up. It is true there has been delay. It was delayed due to certain factors—factors outside our control. We are setting it up. We have obviously to get some equipment from abroad. We have to get heavy water which we do not produce yet. It was a little difficult to get this heavy water but I believe things are in good shape about the starting of this moderate size reactor.

As for our scientific personnel, we cannot compare ourselves with the great countries but leaving out some of the big countries, we are supposed to be rather good in our scientific personnel even now. We can put up a reactor even if fissile materials are not available from the common pool as President Eisenhower has indicated. It is not that we are entirely depending upon some common pool. Even if some help may not be forthcoming, even if the fissile materials and the modulators do not become readily available, I think we can do it. We have sent several teams abroad and people are being trained both in India and abroad for this purpose. I think we are justified in assuming that this would produce results very soon.

The Atomic Energy Commission has also a small team which is gaining experience in the use of radio-active isotopes which will become available when the reactor starts functioning, for biological and other research and for medical treatment.

Now, the main purpose in putting up the reactor is to acquire the necessary technical experience which will help us later on to put up power plants for peaceful purposes. Therefore, some of the workers are engaged in gaining experience in some of the technical processes like heat transfer which will be needed at some later stages. The reactor will also help us to produce some of the radio-active isotopes. At present radio-active isotopes are used in biological research for study of metabolism of various elements. For medical treatment radio-active isotopes and special radio-active iodine are used. These are much weaker in intensity of radiation and can be easily controlled. But they have a short life. Their effect disappears soon after. It is also used for metallurgical purposes, to follow the progress of certain reactions. All of these can be purchased from abroad even now for peaceful purposes, but they are so short-lived that even in the course of transit they lose some activity. It is obviously more advantageous to produce them here. We have got, of course, a major Division dealing with prospecting for ores and raw materials. Two new Divisions have been started, a Medical and Health Division which deals with the protection of workers against the effects of radiation and with research and associated problems, and a Biology Division which conducts investigations on the biological effects of radiation.

Now, hon. Members have mentioned something about our sending some part of the monazite sands or something else abroad. We have sent them abroad, a little of them. Some five or six years ago they were sent abroad without limit; anybody could come and take shiploads of them. We stopped that. I believe even now there is some theft going on occasionally from the coast. We try to stop that by posting guards and in other ways. But we have not considered the question of monazite as a money-making proposition, although it is a money making thing. But we used it always to give it in exchange for something that we lack for atomic energy development. For naturally we lack things. Naturally, we want something which we can get easily from other countries. So that, we use it as a valuable exchange material. We are in some contact with some foreign Atomic Energy Commissions, notably France and England, chiefly these two countries. I think it first started with the French Atomic Energy Commission, and later England. I do not say intimate contact, but we do help each other. We have therefore supplied them. We have occasionally supplied some things to the United States of America, to some other countries too—I do not know at the present moment, I have not got the list here. But generally speaking, what we have supplied is relatively small in quantity. As a matter of fact we do not want to supply these sands as far as possible. We now supply the processed material. We have put up a factory in Travancore-Cochin for processing that material, and it is much more advantageous for us to supply the processed material than the sands. At Trombay near Bombay we are also putting up a factory. A good deal of work is being done in these matters.

Dr. Meghnad Saha said that there should be no secrecy. I entirely agree with him and so far as we are concerned, we want no secrecy. Our difficulty has been that when we deal with another country, whether it is France or England, when they give us any process or any information, they insist on secrecy for their part and we have to agree because it is their custom. We have to take something from them; we cannot get it otherwise; we have to give that assurance. Therefore, we have to keep that assurance. Otherwise, so far as we are concerned, there is no secrecy. It is obvious that in this matter, we are in the first stages of atomic energy work and not so advanced as the Soviet Union or America or England. So, we have really nothing to hide so far as we are concerned.

Dr. Meghnad Saha suggested that our Atomic Energy Act came in the way and so it should be scrapped. We have no objection to scrapping it or what is more probably desirable, amending it if necessary. We may come to this House for amending the Act. Let us consider the matter right from the beginning. We are perfectly agreeable to consulting or having a conference of eminent scientists and discussing these matters with them. If they make any suggestions for the

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improvement of the Act or for the improvement of the work, we shall certainly accept and adopt them. Even now, as a matter of fact, within the compass of this Act, we are trying to improve and expand our work. I might mention that in some way we ourselves have felt that perhaps the Act is not quite adequate and slightly comes in the way occasionally. But, the difficulty is of adding to the legislation that will come up this session or the next session. Finally we decided not to trouble Parliament at this stage till we are forced to do it and to try to expand our work within the scope of the Act, if we can, to some extent. I can promise this House and Dr. Meghnad Saha that we shall gladly pay every respect and attention to all the suggestions that are made individually or jointly.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara): My first complaint about the Atomic Energy Commission is that it has indulged in tall talk immoderately. Secondly, it is more or less controlled by the Tatas, and it has functioned more in the interests of the Tatas than in the interests of the nation.

As regards the first point, you have heard how the Commission had made a claim that in five years, they would be able to utilise the atomic energy. That has not materialised. Very recently, a very important member of the Commission went to Japan and made a very sonorous and spurious claim that within three years, we may be utilising atomic energy for peaceful purposes. When the setting up of a nuclear reactor remains only a cherished objective, which cannot be immediately realised, I do not know how we could utilise it.

Then, there is the question of secrecy to which Shri Meghnad Saha referred and which was also referred to by the Prime Minister. That secrecy is standing in the way of scientists and people interested in this, co-operating with the Atomic Energy Commission. If I may say so, this secrecy is intended to screen the inefficiency, waste and perhaps the shady transactions of the Atomic Energy Commission. In my speech on the Budget Demands for 1951-52, I pointed out that the Union Government is robbing the Travancore-Cochin State of their legitimate share in the price of monazite. The Union Government was paying only £25 per ton whereas the world market price was ten times higher. We would not have minded it so much if it really benefited the Union Government. As a matter of fact, the Central Government is handing it over to the Tatas at £120 per ton and the Tatas go off with a lion's share of the profits. So, they are robbing Paul to pay Peter. That is why we object to it. It is the Tatas, naturally, with their agents in all the key positions in the Government of India that benefit by these transactions. I am one who does not object to monazite being processed because I come from that district where it is refined. My workers, my unions are interested in it, and I do want that it should be refined and it should be sent out as far as possible in the interests of the nation. It must be sent directly by the Government so that whatever benefit we get must go to the country and not to private agencies.

1 P.M.

The hon. Prime Minister referred to the factory in Alwaye. It is more than a hundred miles away from Chavara, and 200 miles away from Manavalakurichi. Even in Alwaye, the processing done is very insignificant. Then, we have got a duplicating process. New factories are set up in Bombay, and the most important processing work is done there. This duplication of processing, and multiplication of factories result in waste. The raw material is transported from one place to another, and from there to a third place. All this costs us very heavily and for no purpose at all. And the material processed in all this is so little that even with the amount of monazite exported, the over-all demand does not come to even 5 per cent. of the total capacity of the factories in Chavara.

Out of the five factories in my State, only the smallest unit has set up a few tables to extract monazite. The surplus in this factory as well as the entire production of the monazite middlings of the other factories are now being dumped into the sea as waste. Precious material worth crores of rupees is dumped into the sea as waste because these cannot be refined by any of the other factories, and the Atomic Energy Commission does not allow them to keep a stock of the middlings. Thus, crores and crores of rupees are wasted. This money would have helped us not only to set up an atomic reactor, but also helped us in our Five Year Plan, but it is being wasted now.

Even in the processing of ilmenite, the Atomic Energy Commission comes in and says there should be a specification of 0·1 per cent. of monazite fractions in the ilmenite shipments made That means only 1/1000 monazite should be in ilmenite shipments. That has taken away the work of the factories and brought it down to one half. That means the Travancore-Cochin Government and the workers are losing about Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 lakhs every year by way of these ilmenite shipments being held up. That is producing more unemployment. I do not think any harm will be done if the specification limit is raised to 0·25 per cent., or 1/400.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Does the hon. Member want that higher percentage of monazite should continue to be exported to give employment to thirty or forty thousand people? I do not think there are so many people employed, but even if it be so does he want that the higher percentage exported previously should continue to be exported?

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: I was now dealing with ilmenite, but with regard to monazite I say the capacity of the factories must be utilized to the full. It must be refined and sent out in exchange for fissionable materials, or even for money because our country wants money. Our workers want work and wages.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are setting up the factory at Trombay for purifying the uranium and thorium from the cake which we will get from Alwaye.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: I was pointing out that we are using only 5 per cent. of the capacity and the rest is thrown into the sea.

The percentage of monazite in ilmenite cannot be avoided completely, but now it is fixed at 0·1 per cent. Even if it is made 0·25 per cent. no country that buys it can process it on an economic basis.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That is not correct.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: As a matter of fact, I know what the process of getting monazite is. It takes so much labour that no country that buys it can process for the content of 0·25 per cent. of monazite in ilmenite. That is what I said. It cannot be worked out as an economic proposition. But anyhow, the Commission gives suggestions: 'do not do this'. That means 50 per cent. of the workers lose their wages, and the Travancore-Cochin Government loses Rs. 50 lakhs every year. Apart from the thorium contents, it has been admitted that the Travancore-Cochin sands contain uranium. If the scientists in the laboratories in India have been allowed to process this uranium that is found in Travancore sands, they would have done it even though it might cost them some economic loss, because it is for experimentation purposes. But now the secrecy imposed is so great that they are not allowed to conduct experiments so much so that the Commission is following a dog in the manger policy in not allowing anybody else to come

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in. Even scientists like Shri Saha cannot get thorium and do some experiments with it.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: He knows that he is free to carry out experiments.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: I say that we can produce 60,000 tons of monazite every year. If that quantity is utilised, we will get a minimum of Rs. 20 crores worth of fissionable material and moderating materials. With that, we can set up a reactor, and we can work that atomic reactor very effectively and perhaps a portion of that money may also be utilised for building up our natural resources. So I say that monazite should be processed to the fullest capacity so that the workers in the factory and the Travancore-Cochin Government can get enough wages and revenue respectively. This is a very important matter. We have been cheated out of our legitimate share of the monazite. We were only getting 25 sovereigns...

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Is it not necessary that in order to process monazite into thorium nitrate and thorium carbonate, we must have a market also? If we start producing a million tons of thorium nitrate and thorium carbonate, there must be someone to purchase them. That is why the production capacity is limited now. The question is one of selling in the market.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Am I to understand that there is no world demand for thorium? I think there is demand. I myself know that there have been offers by companies saying that they are prepared to take lakhs and lakhs of tons of thorium. It is a valuable material. Let us use it. I do not think we can directly process monazite and use it for atomic bomb, because till now that process has not been developed. Thorium is mainly used for mantle and other purposes which are not specifically injurious and harmful to life. I say that we must produce and process this monazite well and exchange it for fissionable material. I also suggest that this red-tape as well as inefficiency of the Atomic Energy Commission should be controlled and say that the Commission should work more for the interests of the nation than for the interests of some private agency.

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara): The House is indebted to the hon. Prime Minister for the realistic touch that he brought to the discussion on the subject before the House. Without his presence—physical and political presence—at the round table conferences of the United Nations, there can be no peace. You cannot have the U.N. control of atomic energy without all these powers being in it—especially the powers of Asia. Sir, let us understand first things first. We Indians, to whatever race or community we belong, do not believe in destroying our enemy. We shall not destroy even our worst enemy either by the fire or by the sword. These are the principles we learnt from the highest idealism of Hinduism, Buddhism and also Christianity which has got a foothold in this country, though it is not practised as much in the west where it has so great a foothold.

There is one point which I want to impress on the House. What about this 1943 pact in regard to the atom bomb which was arrived at between the United States and Britain? The provisions of that pact have been revealed recently. Both Britain and America believe in atomic energy and these are the terms of that famous pact which has been revealed recently. I do not know whether even the Government of India have information on this. If this had been extended to include Russia, I do not think we would have witnessed this race for armaments and the battle between all the Great Powers today. The trouble is that this Pact was between the U.S.A. and Britain entered into with the object of keeping out Russia. It was a secret Pact. I shall read the terms of the Pact.

Firstly, that we will never use this agency against each other.

Secondly, we will not use it against third parties without each other's consent.

Thirdly, we will not either of us communicate any information about this tube-well oil—that is the expression they used for atomic energy—to third parties except by mutual consent.

Fourthly, that in view of the heavy burden falling upon the United States as a result of her intervention in the war, its industrial or commercial character shall be dealt with as between the United States and Great Britain only on the terms specified in this agreement. This agreement was arrived at in the Quebec Conference of 1943 and signed on August 19th of that year by President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill. If perhaps the terms of that agreement had also been extended to Russia also, one of the Allies in the war, we might not have had such a race for armaments.

Sir, we in India are perhaps going at a snail's pace. We perhaps are going at the speed of a tortoise but, surely, in the long run, perhaps we might catch up, at least in the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy, and thereby perhaps prove to the world that we are going slowly. We have been overwhelmed by our refugee problem for the last five years and we did not set up plants even for the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy.

President Truman was warned by great scientists who met at Chicago that he shall not utilise the atom bomb. This advice was tendered barely three months before the atom bomb fell on Hiroshima. The United States was frightened that Hitler might use it. Whether Hitler committed suicide or not the bomb was dropped on the Japanese. It is a well-known fact that the Japanese were sending out peace feelers through the Vatican, but rejecting the peace feelers sent through the Vatican the Americans laid the atom bomb on Japan, a coloured country, with disastrous effect. Today the Japanese do not want the American scientists and doctors to touch or investigate the conditions of the Japanese victims—the fishermen who have been victims of the effect of the bombing in Bikini. The scientists, headed by Dr. Frank at Chicago, warned President Truman as follows:

(i) It is impossible for the U.S.A. to maintain a monopoly in the manufacture of the bombs;

(ii) since the technique could not be kept a secret from competing nations since the principles of making the bomb were already known, it would not be possible to avoid an arms race;

(iii) Russia and China are the only two countries that can survive the nuclear attack.

In the face of these, they warned the President against the use of the atom bomb.

In the face of such important and valuable advice given by the scientists, America went ahead and bombed the Japanese city. Today, as I mentioned, the Japanese are so touchy that even American scientists and doctors are not allowed to come near the patients for medical examination.

Field Marshal Montgomery has warned that in the event of war both sides will use atomic weapons ruthlessly. He said that the safest place for people would be nearest the aggressor, for the aggressor will not be able to utilise these bombs for destroying his own people. In such a situation, it is beholden to us to see whether it is possible for us to put our heads together, whether we can

[Shri Joachim Alva]

call all the scientists of the earth together to have a separate group and find out what are the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and thereby perhaps usher more light in this great darkness that is overhanging the world.

The other day, in the House of Lords, Lord Jowitt warned that while he was satisfied that the United States had taken every possible step open to them to avoid any possible danger, the fact that the area which might be affected was so enormous posed the problem that ships on their lawful occupations might be going through those waters and there was, he presumed, no right under international law, to warn people off.

The Marquess of Salisbury agreed that a single nation could not exercise, as it were, sovereignty in waters which were not national waters.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is already 1-15.

Shri Joachim Alva: I will finish in a minute. America says, 'we shall have control'; Russia says, 'there shall be no more production'. Between these two conflicting views, we are to arrive at a *via media*. One Power shall not have the right to use what is being produced to its own advantage to destroy others and to destroy its own name.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Tuesday, the 11th May, 1954.